

Democrats drop anti-reflagging move

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democrats said Wednesday they were dropping efforts to delay President Ronald Reagan's plans to protect Kuwaiti oil tankers, one week before U.S. warships were expected to begin their escort duty in the Gulf. "This vote will be the end of it as far as I'm concerned," Senate majority leader Robert Byrd said shortly before senators refused to break a Republican filibuster blocking the chamber from seeking a delay in the escort plans. "We've made our point that a majority of the Senate is opposed to this policy," Mr. Byrd said. The Democratic-controlled chamber voted 55-44, six votes short of the 60 needed to impose cloture, the parliamentary manoeuvre used to end a filibuster. It was the third time in a week that the Senate refused to invoke cloture. With Democrats holding a 54-46 margin in the chamber, Republicans have been able to muster enough votes to block the cloture attempts. At issue was a proposal which called for a 90-day delay in Mr. Reagan's plans. The two earlier votes were on a different proposal, seeking to put the Gulf policy "in abeyance" for an undetermined time. (See related story on page 2)

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية للراي

Kanaan returns after talks in Britain

AMMAN (Petra) — Planning Minister Taher Kanaan returned from Britain on Wednesday after talks with officials at the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) regarding capital and technical aid offered to Jordan by the British government to help the Kingdom's development projects. Dr. Kanaan, in an arrival statement, said that the talks focused on projects which will be financed from a £10 million British development loan as well as proposed projects for the occupied Arab territories which would be financed from a £5 million British technical aid programme. During the visit Dr. Kanaan met with the British minister of state for overseas development and trade, and the minister of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs with whom he discussed bilateral cooperation and British support for Jordan's development projects. Dr. Kanaan also added that he visited Scotland where he held talks with the Scottish Development Agency and the Council of Educational Technologies which is cooperating with the Ministry of Education and the Royal Scientific Society in a programme for introducing computer at the secondary school level in Jordan.

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King meets Howe

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday held talks with British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe on efforts towards convening an international peace conference on the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war, international issues and bilateral relations. The King, who is on a private visit to London, held talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Monday.

Former PNC speaker arrives

RAMTHA (Petra) — Khaled Al Fahom, former speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), arrived here via Ramtha on Wednesday on a private visit to Jordan. Mr. Fahom said he was on a private visit to have his daughter undergo surgery after His Majesty King Hussein instructed that his daughter be treated at the King Hussein Medical Centre. Lower House of Parliament Deputy Speaker Ismail Hijazi welcomed Mr. Fahom and conveyed to him the greetings of His Majesty the King and those of the Lower House speaker and members. Mr. Fahom was received upon arrival by Mr. Hijazi, Irbid Governor Akram Al Naser and other officials.

Walheim invited to Egypt

VIENNA (AP) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid confirmed Wednesday that his country had invited Austrian President Kurt Waldheim to visit, but said the date has yet to be determined. Dr. Waldheim has visited only the Vatican and Jordan since being elected president a year ago. Mr. Abdul Meguid told a news conference at the end of a three-day visit to Austria that he handed Dr. Waldheim an invitation from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during talks with the Austrian leader on Tuesday.

Saudi leader pledges backing for league

BAHRAIN (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has voiced support for the Arab League, which faces serious financial problems, to enable it carry on its work, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. The monarch made the pledge in a meeting with Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi at the summer resort of Taif Tuesday night. King Fahd said Saudi Arabia would support "all Arab League matters to enable it carry out responsibilities in serving the Arab World's causes and achieving its aims," the agency said. Mr. Klibi, who earlier visited Syria, Jordan and Kuwait, was in Saudi Arabia to discuss the convening of a long-delayed Arab summit meeting in Riyadh later this year.

Syrian paper welcomes EC move

DAMASCUS (R) — A leading Syrian newspaper said Wednesday that a European Community (EC) decision to lift an eight-month-old ban on high-level contacts with Syria was a victory for reason. The ban was part of a package of EC sanctions imposed at Britain's request after Syrian agents were implicated in a British court in an alleged attempt to blow up an Israeli airliner in London. The semi-official newspaper Al Thawra said the decision by EC foreign ministers to lift the ban "represents a victory for the voice of reason and wisdom."

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Rifai calls on expatriates to increase investments and boost national economy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has urged Jordanian expatriates to convert their foreign currency funds into the Jordanian currency and increase their contribution towards the prosperity of the country through investments in development projects.

The appeal was made by Mr. Rifai on the third day of the third Jordanian expatriates conference being held in Amman, and published by Al Mughtareb Al Arabi magazine.

Mr. Rifai said the Jordanian economy was strong, thanks to sound planning and proper execution of programmes carried out in cooperation between the private and public sectors and with support and backing from Arab countries. Arab and foreign funds have been increasingly channelled into projects in Jordan which enjoys political stability and a unique geographical

location within the Arab World, Mr. Rifai said.

As a result of sound planning, the Jordanian dinar has maintained a stable exchange rate in relation to major foreign currencies based on criteria linked to the special drawing rights (SDR) since 1975, Mr. Rifai said.

He said by transforming their vast funds from foreign currencies into the Jordanian dinar, the expatriates will avoid losses due to currency fluctuations or fund mismanagement.

Mr. Rifai said that Jordanian industries had reached a very advanced stage due to the in-



creasing use of modern technology, enabling the country to yield good quality products competing with many commodities in Arab and industrialised countries like Canada and some European nations.

The government has adopted a number of measures designed to

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Poindexter: Reagan unaware of contra deal but okayed strict arms-for-hostages swap

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Former National Security Adviser John Poindexter said Wednesday he never told President Ronald Reagan about diverting Iranian arms sales profits to the contra rebels because he wanted to protect the president.

But in an extraordinary morning of nationally televised testimony, Vice-Admiral Poindexter said that contrary to Mr. Reagan's oft-stated assertions, the president first approved the weapons sales strictly as an arms-for-hostages swap.

Adm. Poindexter said he later destroyed the authorisation Mr. Reagan signed to spare him political embarrassment. "I tore it up and put it in the burn bag behind my desk," he said.

Adm. Poindexter spoke calmly and occasionally puffed on his pipe as he described events at the very highest levels of the Reagan administration and the core of the Iran-contra affair.

His testimony about the money backs up what Mr. Reagan has said all along: that he didn't know it was being funnelled to the

Nicaraguan rebels during a congressional ban on U.S. military aid.

"I made a very deliberate decision not to ask the president so I could insulate him and provide him some measure of deniability if, it ever leaked out," Adm. Poindexter said.

At the White House, Mr. Reagan was asked about Adm. Poindexter's testimony.

"What's new about that?" he replied in one of his rare comments on testimony in the congressional fact-finding hearings.

But Adm. Poindexter directly contradicted his former boss on another important issue. He said Mr. Reagan first approved selling weapons to Iran in late 1985 strictly as an arms-for-hostages deal.

He said he destroyed the document after Attorney General Edwin Meese told him he was beginning an inquiry into the arms sales.

Adm. Poindexter said he was concerned that it could be a "significant political embarrassment" to Mr. Reagan, who had

publicly declared he would not make deals with terrorists.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Mr. Reagan "doesn't recall signing the finding (authorisation), but he doesn't disagree with those who say he did."

Adm. Poindexter said he felt confident the president would have approved of the contra funding scheme if he had been asked.

"I'm sure the president would have enjoyed hearing about it," he said.

He also said he felt he was simply carrying out Mr. Reagan's Central American policies. "It was the implementation of a policy that was well understood. It was not a secret foreign policy," he said.

Adm. Poindexter said he personally approved the scheme in February 1986 after it was suggested by his aide Oliver North.

"The buck stops here with me. I made the decision. I was convinced the president would, in the

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Shultz warns Israel

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on Tuesday delivered one of his sharpest public criticisms to date of Likud policy towards the peace process, and warned Israel of the "time on the demographic clock."

In a speech given at Hadassah's annual national convention in Baltimore, Shultz said of Israel: "We observe that this peace process is beset by partisanship."

"We know that no one — not us, not Israel, not the Arabs — improves the chances for peace by doing nothing at all, by just sitting around."

"Those who oppose the exploration of new ideas, or even revisiting the old ideas, have an obligation to offer something different as an alternative to the status quo."

In language that reminded some observers of the harsher tones of the Carter administration, Shultz stressed the need to proceed to a Mideast peace by saying, "I don't have to tell you — if you include Israel and the occupied territories — what time it is on the demographic clock in the land of Israel."

A State Department spokesman said it was not their policy to comment on Shultz's speeches. Privately, however, officials concede that the harsh words were aimed at the Likud and at countering a mounting perception by some (including Western European) countries that U.S. silence on the issue amounted to tacit reinforcement of the Likud's opposition to an international Mideast peace parley — The Jerusalem Post.

Soviet delegation begins consular work in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Visiting Soviet delegates met Wednesday with some of the 2,000 Soviet citizens living in Israel.

The eight delegates, on the first official visit to Israel since the Kremlin severed ties 20 years ago, met about 40 Soviet passport holders in a small office they rented above the Finnish embassy, said a spokesman for the embassy, which represents Soviet interests in Israel.

The purpose of the meetings is primarily to renew passports, said the embassy spokesman.

He denied Israeli newspaper reports that the delegation had rented a home in the Tel Aviv suburbs of Ramat Gan. He said the delegates, who have 90-day visas, plan to keep their rooms in a five-star beachfront Tel Aviv hotel during their entire stay here.

The reports of a rented home sparked some speculation that the delegates might stay on past the initial three months and establish a permanent presence as a way of quietly renewing ties. Israeli officials said Wednesday it was too early to tell if the visit of the consular delegation might lead to a substantial improvement in Soviet-Israeli relations but that the Soviet delegates likely would receive a visa extension if they sought it.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the Soviet delegation's visit could mark the start of a new period in relations between the two countries but warned against exaggerating its importance.

"I would suggest for all of us not to release too much importance to this delegation," Mr. Shamir told Israel Radio Tuesday

night. "We are all interested in the normalisation of relations and a change in the policy of the Soviet Union on the issue of Jewish emigration."

In Moscow, a spokesman said the Soviet Union would not permit a reciprocal Israeli visit. "There are no permanent Israeli residents in the Soviet Union and there is no Israeli property here," he said.

The United States said Tuesday the visit of the Soviet delegation to Israel was a positive step but not one that satisfied U.S. concerns about giving Moscow a role in the search for Middle East peace.

"We have long regarded an increase in official contacts between Israel and the Soviet Union as a positive step," State Department spokesman Charles Redman told reporters.

"But our concerns with a Soviet role in a (Middle East) peace conference... are much substantial and broader than this particular visit of a consular delegation to Israel," he said.

Washington has urged Moscow to re-establish diplomatic ties with Israel and speed Jewish emigration as the price of attending a peace conference under discussion over the last few months.

Secretary of State George Shultz said in a speech Monday night that the Soviets "deserve a place at the peace table only if they do the things that make them truly deserving."

Mr. Shultz, accepting an award from Hadassah, the Jewish women's organisation, asked:

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Registered unemployment stands at 8% of work force

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Nearly eight per cent of the domestic Jordanian work force have registered as unemployed at the Civil Service Commission and the number is expected to reach about 9.1 per cent by 1990, the Labour Ministry announced Wednesday.

Addressing the third conference of Jordanian expatriates, Labour Ministry Under-Secretary Saleh Khasawneh said the eight per cent figure — which only covers those registered at the commission and not all unemployed in the country — represents 40,000 jobless Jordanians.

Reading from a paper prepared for the conference by the Labour Ministry, Mr. Khasawneh said

that 90 per cent of those seeking jobs and registered at the commission were either graduates of universities or community colleges or had passed tawjihi.

He said the number of unemployed increased by 16.5 per cent in the period between 1982-1986, reaching eight per cent by the end of 1986. According to World Bank figures quoting a Jordanian study, the real unemployment figure stands at nearly 13 per cent and with the continuation of current trends, unemployment could reach 30 per cent by 1990.

According to the ministry, the total Jordanian work force is nearly 535,000.

Labour Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan said the government was doing all it can to contain the unemployment problem and that

a special committee had been established to monitor the problem from all its aspects and report to the government. Mr. Hassan, who chaired Wednesday's session of the expatriates' conference, said the government had a special concern to create job opportunities for people in the occupied West Bank in order to strengthen their resistance against Israeli efforts to evict them from their land.

Mr. Khasawneh said that the decline in oil prices in the early eighties had reflected sharply on the labour market in Jordan, creating new constraints and increasing unemployment.

He said the increase of 3.9 per cent in the Jordanian population exacerbated the problem. The total Jordanian population,

according to Mr. Khasawneh, was 4.5 million with 2.8 million living in the East Bank, 900,000 in the occupied West Bank and 800,000 in Gulf states and the rest of the world. He said that 0.5 per cent in the population increase was caused by reverse migration.

According to the ministry's paper, 47 per cent of the Jordanian work force are employed in social services and general administration, followed by 11 per cent employed in the construction sector; and 7.6 per cent in the farming sector.

Mr. Khasawneh said that the number of foreign workers in Jordan went down to 130,000 this year compared with 143,000 in 1985. He attributed the decline in

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Sharaa briefs Fahd on Syrian efforts to 'contain' Gulf war

TAIF (Agencies) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa briefed King Fahd on Wednesday on his country's efforts to "contain the spillovers" of the Iran-Iraq war, official sources said.

The sources, quoted by AP on condition they not be named, said Mr. Sharaa also delivered a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to the Saudi monarch which they said was related to the same issue.

They declined to elaborate on the contents of the message.

They said that King Fahd and Mr. Sharaa also discussed the joint Saudi-Jordanian efforts to heal an eight-year-old rift between Syria and Iraq. They said there may be low-level meetings in the near future between representatives of Baghdad and Damascus to discuss means of normalising relations.

Mr. Sharaa left after the meeting with the Saudi monarch, making only a three-hour visit to the kingdom. The Saudi Press Agency reported his audience with King Fahd without any details.

Mr. Sharaa was in Tehran on Monday, where he conferred with Iranian leaders and delivered a message from Mr. Assad to Iranian President Ali Khamenei.

Saudi Arabia and Jordan have been spearheading efforts to end the rift between Syria and Iraq, and King Fahd was quoted earlier this week as stressing the need for increased efforts to bring the Iran-Iraq hostilities to an end.

U.N. efforts

At the United Nations, Security Council members are trying to hammer out a resolution to demand an immediate ceasefire between Iran and Iraq backed by a threat of sanctions to ensure compliance.

Diplomats said it was unclear when the 15-nation body would act.

The five non-aligned members of the council, whose support is vital, proposed amendments to proposals agreed among the five permanent members and that consideration of these changes could delay public proceedings, they said Tuesday night.

The United States, which has been pressing the matter since late January — although it is understood to have originated last year with Britain — had hoped the council would meet on Wednesday. But it appeared that any accord would still need several days of negotiations.

Thus, the first American re-flagging of Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf, scheduled for early next week, could occur before the council acts on its first mandatory ceasefire call since the Gulf war began almost seven years ago.

Secretary of State George Shultz has said he plans to underscore the importance of the proposed council decision by coming to New York to represent the United States. The other permanent members are the Soviet Union, France, Britain and China.

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Iraqis raid Iran's Rostam field

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said its planes on Wednesday attacked Iran's Rostam oilfield in the southern Gulf in the continuation of a series of raids on Tehran's offshore facilities.

Baghdad had reported a strike against the nearby Rakhsh field and two raids on Al Farsiya Island in the northern Gulf over the previous 48 hours.

A military spokesman said Iraqi jets launched "destructive attacks" on the Rostam field at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday.

Oil and shipping sources in the Gulf also reported the raid but there was no immediate word on damage.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the warplanes flew 600 kilometres to bomb the oilfield and "reiterate to the Iranian enemy that no matter how long the war continues for, we are determined to deprive them of every source of revenue."

The agency said all attacking Iraqi aircraft "returned safely to

base after bombing and completely destroying their target — the Rostam oilfield."

It was the third day in which Iraq has carried out long-distance air raids on Iranian oil installations and offshore oilfields in the Gulf in advance of the reflagging of Kuwaiti oil tankers under the American flag to entitle them to American warship protection (See page 2).

Iraq has repeatedly declared it would keep up its attacks on vital Iranian oil and economic targets in an effort to throttle Iran's economy and force it to accept a negotiated end to the war.

Iran generally retaliates to Iraq's strikes by raiding foreign vessels in the Gulf that trade with Iraq or its Gulf supporters.

Iran used oil platforms at Rostam and a third field in the area, Sassan, to launch a series of helicopter gunship raids against shipping in 1986.

But a series of Iraqi attacks on those helicopter bases late last

year led Iran to switch its tactics.

The trio of offshore fields, Sassan, Rostam and Rakhsh, are thought to be operating at a very low level at the moment, if at all, oil industry sources said.

On Tuesday, Iraqi warplanes struck at the Rakhsh offshore oil, only about 16 kilometres from Rostam, off Qatar. Other formations struck the Kharg Island oil loading terminal in the northern part of the Gulf as well as installations on the Farsiya Island.

Gulf-based marine salvage executives said the Iraqi planes inflicted heavy damage on Kharg, destroying one of its only two operating loading berths.

There were no details on the damage on Farsiya, which harbours some of Iran's gunboats that attack ships in the Gulf.

The island has been hit on Monday. The Iraqi warships that day also attacked a tanker holding area off Kharg and an oil vessel off the Iranian coast.

Carbombs kill 13 in northern Lebanon

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — A carbomb blew up Wednesday outside a supermarket in this Syrian-policed city killing 12 people. Thirty minutes later, another such explosion in east Lebanon's ancient city of Baalbek, also controlled by Syrian troops, killed a woman.

Police said 30 people were wounded in the Tripoli bombing that was caused by a bomb concealed in a red Fiat. It exploded in Azmi Street at 11 a.m.

The second carbomb in Baalbek, 50 kilometres from Tripoli, wounded five people in addition to killing the woman. The explosives were placed in a red Mercedes-Benz.

Most of the casualties in the Tripoli bombing were women and children who were shopping at the supermarket which occupied the first two floors of a seven-storey apartment building.

The explosion in Tripoli left trails of blood, telephone lines and a carpet of broken glass more than 100 metres from the focus of the blast. Some 20 boutiques were wrecked, their goods tossed into the street.

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75 confirmed dead in Karachi bomb blasts

KARACHI (AP) — Rescue workers Wednesday pulled charred bodies from blackened cars after four bombs blew up during rush hour, killing at least 75 people and wounding 300.

Thronges of weeping people gathered Wednesday at Karachi's two central hospitals to try to identify loved ones from grisly colour photographs posted on bulletin boards outside.

No group claimed responsibility for Tuesday evening's bombings, the worst attack in Pakistan's 40-year history, but President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq blamed Afghan agents.

"Agents opposed to Pakistan's policy towards Afghanistan are the real culprits," General Zia, who visited the site Wednesday, told reporters. "These sabotage activities are directly aimed at forcing Pakistan to change its Afghanistan policy."

Earlier, the municipal government issued a statement saying: "The explosions appeared to be

the work of saboteurs of foreign origin." It did not elaborate.

Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, who is visiting Japan, called the bombings "a ghastly act of cowardice" and prepared to fly home Thursday, cancelling an official visit to South Korea.

Police shot dead a man in Karachi as protests flared against the bombings, police sources said.

The 20-year-old man died as police opened fire in the volatile suburb of Liaquatabad after tear-gas failed to disperse crowds of youths blocking traffic and throwing stones at passing cars. No further details were immediately available.

Almost all shops and businesses in the city of more than seven million people closed their doors in protest on Wednesday and shopkeepers told reporters the strike would continue on Thursday.

King Hassan meets British leaders

LONDON (R) — King Hassan of Morocco, in Britain on a state visit, held talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Wednesday amid protests that he was here to buy British arms for his Western Sahara war.

British officials said the king, who was later due to meet several ministers, would discuss Morocco's 11-year-old conflict against the Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas, Middle East peace and the country's trade position with the European Community (EC).

They also said a discussion of arms sales was quite possible as the king is his own defence minister and would be meeting Defence Secretary George Younger. But they added Britain would not change its position of neutrality in the conflict.

His visit was greeted by protests from parliament's House of Lords and Polisario officials in London.

Fifty Lords, backed by 100 opposition members of parliament from the House of Commons, petitioned the government not to sell the king any arms, saying he was "an autocratic ruler waging a bloody colonial war."

In a letter delivered to the Foreign Office, the Lords said: "We are most concerned that he may try to buy arms from Britain during his visit here, perhaps Tornado aircraft or 105-mm guns."

"No British weapons should be delivered to Morocco while the king persists with his unjustifiable war of aggression," the letter added.

Morocco and the Polisario, fighting for an independent state for the Sahrawi people in the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara, cannot agree on the terms of a referendum proposed by the United Nations to end the conflict peacefully. The Polisario says it cannot take place while the desert area is under Moroccan control.

Kuwait asks U.K. to reflag tankers U.S. to start Gulf escort duty on July 22

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait has formally requested Britain to re-register some of its tankers under the British flag to enjoy British naval protection in the Gulf, diplomatic sources said Wednesday.

They said the request was made Tuesday by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saad Mohammed Al-Osaimi in a meeting with British Ambassador Peter Hinchcliffe.

Mr. Hinchcliffe was quoted by a local newspaper on Sunday as saying Britain would consider any such Kuwaiti request.

Kuwait, whose shipping has come under Iranian attack in recent months, asked to have British oil tankers in April and now leaves three Gibraltar-flag tankers which enjoy British naval protection.

A scheme to reflag 11 Kuwaiti tankers with the U.S. flag is set to go ahead next week.

The sources said the request to Britain was made in very general terms and Kuwait was unlikely to want to re-register additional ships at the moment. But it might want to sound out British readiness to do so in the future, they added.

Mr. Osaimi meanwhile left Kuwait Wednesday for talks on the Gulf war in West Germany and Italy as part of an Arab League delegation, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported.

The talks were expected to focus on a proposed United Nations Security Council resolution on the seven-year-old conflict calling on Iran and Iraq to cease fighting.

West Germany, with Italy and elected member of the council, has expressed reservations on the draft resolution, saying it is too harshly worded against Iran.

Meanwhile U.S. legislators who met with top government officials said the navy will start escorting U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti tankers through the war-torn Gulf on July 22.

The first tanker will be escorted up the 800-kilometre long waterway to be loaded with oil and then back through the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf, the legislators said Tuesday.

The first convoy will include only one or two Kuwaiti tankers while later groups will probably be larger, said Congressman Les Aspin, an opposition Democrat

and chairman of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee.

Mr. Aspin, Democratic Senator James Sasser and Senate minority leader Bob Dole, a Republican, said they were told that the first navy mission would be July 22.

Sen. Sasser, a leader of congressional attempts to block President Ronald Reagan's plan, said Democratic opponents would try again to win Senate approval of a resolution seeking a delay. To earlier attempts failed.

Administration officials have refused to announce an exact start-up date for the escorts, and Pentagon officials declined to comment on the July 22 date.

At the White House, presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said only that the navy's escort mission "will begin soon."

Later, an administration official said it was "unfortunate that congressmen have released details from a classified briefing."

But Warren Nelson, a spokesman for Mr. Aspin, said it is assumed that nothing in such briefings is classified unless it is identified explicitly as such and a degree of classification is given.

Sen. Dole, Sen. Sasser and Mr. Aspin were among a bipartisan group of about 20 House and Senate leaders who met behind closed doors for more than four hours Tuesday with National Security Adviser Frank Carlucci, Secretary of State George Shultz, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and Adm. William Crowe Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Mr. Reagan's plan to put U.S. tankers and ships abroad 11 Kuwaiti tankers and have the navy escort the ships has raised congressional fears that the United States might be drawn into the Iran-Iraq war.

"This policy is not well thought-out," Sen. Sasser said. "I don't believe the administration has the support in Congress to sustain this policy."

Mr. Aspin said a second escort mission will begin Aug. 6 and will be the first of three convoys

during the month. Eventually, the navy plans to run as many as five convoys a month, Mr. Aspin said.

The administration officials, particularly Mr. Weinberger, stressed that the Pentagon is prepared to deal with a wide variety of possible retaliation attempts by Iran, according to the legislators. Iran has repeatedly threatened to attack the Kuwaiti tankers.

"I think there's been great value in the questions we have raised here in Congress," Mr. Aspin said. "We've slowed it down, clearly. They originally talked about doing this the first week in June. And they've also thought through a lot more details about the possible threats. So that's been beneficial."

Republican Congressman Trent Lott said the policy is too far advanced to be changed, even though he said he had reservations.

"It would be counterproductive for Congress to oppose it now," Mr. Lott said.

'Iran ready to sink U.S. ships'

With just one week to go before the U.S. navy starts escorting tankers in the Gulf, Iranian leaders are raising the tone, threatening to sink or capture American

warships and take captives to camps "with their hands on their heads."

Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of the Iranian parliament and the country's top war spokesman, said in remarks published Wednesday that Iran was prepared for a showdown and ready to sink U.S. ships.

If the United States ventured to enter the Gulf, "we would point part of our artillery guns at the Yankees and take American captives with their hands on their heads to camps with humiliation," Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted him as saying.

Mr. Rafsanjani was speaking in Tehran to commanders of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), whose naval units have been mounting hit-and-run attacks on Gulf shipping in retaliation for Iraqi air strikes on Iranian vessels and installations.

IRGC Deputy Commander Ali Shamkhani told the Tehran meeting Tuesday that Iran was eagerly waiting for the U.S. fleet, which already has several warships in the Gulf with more just outside.

"We would try as much as possible not to destroy them but to seize them intact to strengthen Iran's naval potential," he was quoted as saying by IRNA, received in London.

U.S. 'perplexed' by North statement on Kuwait prisoners

WASHINGTON (AP) — State Department officials have indicated they were perplexed by Lt. Col. Oliver North's assertion that 17 men convicted in Kuwait of bomb attacks on the U.S. and French embassies will eventually "walk free."

"I don't know what he based that on," said one diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Our whole policy is not to pressure the Kuwaitis."

The 17 are mainly Iraqi Shi'ites identified as members of the underground Al Daawa party, which is pro-Iranian. Some of the prisoners in Kuwait are thought to have relatives associated with Islamic Jihad, the fundamentalist Shi'ite group that holds several Americans hostage in Lebanon.

Islamic Jihad, which is also believed to be loyal to Iran, has

demanding the release of prisoners in Kuwait as a condition for freeing some U.S. captives.

Col. North, a former National Security Council aide, told the congressional Iran-contra committee Monday he had approval for a nine-point plan that called for the release of the American hostages in Lebanon in exchange for freedom for the prisoners in Kuwait.

The plan was negotiated last fall between Albert Hakim, a private businessman working with Col. North, and a team from the Iranian government. Questioning North about the prisoners, Sen. Warren Rudman, vice-chairman of the Senate panel, asked how the U.S. government could "talk about people like that, who are scum, in return for anything."

France denies apologising to Iran over airport incident

PARIS (Agencies) — France Wednesday denied it had apologised to Iran over an incident at Geneva airport in which a Paris-based Iranian diplomat was alleged to have been beaten by French customs guards.

The airport incident is the latest in a series of disputes between France and Iran which have brought the two countries close to breaking relations.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said France's top diplomat in Tehran, Charge d'Affaires Pierre Lafrance, had discussed the incident with an Iranian official Tuesday.

"Mr. Lafrance set out the facts. He did not present any apologies on behalf of the French government," the spokesman said.

Tehran Radio said earlier that Mr. Lafrance had apologised over the incident and described it as a "source of regret."

According to Iran, diplomat Mohsen Aminzadeh was beaten by customs men at the French section of Geneva airport on Saturday when he refused to allow his case to be searched.

France says he injured himself. Iran Tuesday summoned the French consul in Tehran to appear before an Islamic Revolutionary Court to answer questions on his suspected espionage.

The Iranian move followed a French demand for an Iranian embassy employee in Paris to leave the embassy and appear before a judge to testify on its alleged links to guerrilla groups.

President Francois Mitterrand said France would stand firm against "intolerable threats" and the embassy interpreter, Valid Gerdji, widely believed to be a senior Iranian intelligence officer, should answer to French justice.

On Tuesday night, the Foreign Ministry denied the accusations against French Consul in Tehran Paul Torri and said the action was taken to counter the French demand that Gerdji, who has no diplomatic immunity, be turned over.

20% of Israelis want to expel Arabs

TEL AVIV (AP) — An opinion poll published Wednesday indicated most Israelis want the country to maintain its hold on the occupied West Bank and 20 per cent want to expel the 800,000 Palestinians living there.

The poll was conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi Agency for the daily Maariv and appeared to indicate support for Army Gen. (res.) Rehavam Zeevi, who drew sharp criticism earlier this month when he said Israel should "transfer" Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to Arab countries.

Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza during the 1967 Middle East war. A military government

has controlled the area since that war. Some 1.4 million Palestinians live in those territories along with about 65,000 Jewish settlers.

In a sample of 1,205 Israeli Jews, 20.4 per cent said Israel should annex the West Bank and Gaza and expel the Palestinians.

Another 19.2 per cent said Israel should annex the West Bank without granting Israeli citizenship to the Palestinians living there but without evicting them.

The poll indicated 8.9 per cent wanted Israel to annex the territories and grant full rights to the Palestinians.

In addition, 10.7 per cent said

they wanted the military government to remain in place without change, while 7.6 per cent wanted to maintain Israel's occupation while granting autonomy to the Palestinians in local affairs.

Only 31.1 per cent were willing to give up part of all of the captured territories. Of these, 23.6 per cent favoured a territorial compromise, 4.5 per cent agreed to a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation and 3 per cent were ready to accept a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Of those polled, 2.1 per cent said they had no opinion. The poll had a margin of error of 3 per cent, Maariv reported.

Khomeini calls for demonstration during Haj

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian pilgrims to Islam's holiest shrines in Saudi Arabia will stage two "splendid" demonstrations during the pilgrimage season to urge unity among the world's nearly 1 billion Muslims, Iran's official news agency has reported.

Hojatolislam Mahdi Karubi, a cleric who will lead the Iranian pilgrims, told the agency that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ordered the rallies "to invite pilgrims to unity."

Saudi Arabia has banned political activity at the two holy sites in Mecca and Medina over the last few years. But security forces have had to confront fun-

damentalists, mainly Iranian Shi'ites, who tried to preach Tehran's revolutionary beliefs.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, said Khomeini believes the pilgrimage, or Haj, season "is beyond the mere observance of religious ceremonies."

Mr. Karubi said the demonstrations, which IRNA described as "splendid" and "massive," will be staged in both Mecca and Medina.

When asked if arrangements for these demonstrations have been worked out with Saudi officials, Mr. Karubi told IRNA:

"We obey Imam Khomeini's views in relation with Haj." He did not elaborate.

Mr. Karubi left for Jeddah Tuesday to prepare for the influx of Iranian pilgrims.

More than 150,000 Iranians went to Saudi Arabia in last year's pilgrimage season. They formed the largest gathering of foreign pilgrims in the kingdom at the time.

Saudi police detained 113 Iranians on "charges of political activity." They were released three weeks later amid strongly worded Iranian threats of reprisals.

North: Lawmakers tipped Libya to U.S. raids

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lt. Col. Oliver North has claimed that statements by two lawmakers tipped off Libya to the April 1986 U.S. bombing raid. But the evidence contradicts his assertion.

Col. North told the Iran-contra panel that two members of Congress emerged from a secret presidential briefing hours before the raid, and told the nation that President Ronald Reagan would speak on television that night on Libya.

He did not name the lawmakers. Col. North contended the tipoff may have been responsible for the heavy anti-aircraft fire encountered by U.S. pilots, and possibly the downing of an F-111 bomber in which the plane's two crewmen were killed.

But a Senate report and news files show that for a week before the attack, numerous stories said the raid had been approved, mentioned possible targets, and

quoted unnamed Reagan administration officials as the sources of information.

The leaks so concerned Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd that he issued a report on the subject on May 7, 1986. It said:

"This military action was undertaken after a full week of news reports that quoted administration officials revealing the nature of the mission, against whom the raid would take place, roughly when it would occur, what targets would probably be struck, and which countries would and would not assist in it, and after our allies had been told of the planned military raid."

The files also indicate that only one lawmaker — Sen. Claiborne Pell, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee — commented on the upcoming presidential speech.

On the afternoon of April 14, 1986, the president convened a secret meeting on Libya, inviting

Senate Democratic and Republican leaders, and the chairman of the House and Senate Foreign Relations Committees. The leaders said they were asked not to confirm or deny the session and its subject.

Only one did. Sen. Pell refused to say whether any U.S. military action against Libya was imminent, but he told reporters that the president would speak to the nation that night.

The chairman of the Senate Iran-contra panel said Col. North was "grossly unfair" to suggest that Sen. Pell's announcement of the presidential speech alerted Libyans to the U.S. air raid.

Sen. Daniel Inouye, in emotional closing remarks to Col. North on Tuesday, said neither the loss of an F-111 bomber in the April 14, 1986, attack nor heavy anti-aircraft fire resulted from the advance disclosure.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme Review
15:55 Cartoons
16:05 Children's programmes
16:20 Children's Scientific Programme
17:15 Butterflies Island
17:45 English series
18:15 Health and Life (Arabic)
19:30 News reports
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Local contests programme
22:00 Arabic film
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Arabic film cond.

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Rue Carnot
18:30 Le chateau des chateaux
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Sport Magazine
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 My Husband and I (Comedy)
21:10 Rags to riches
22:30 News in English
23:10 Feature film: "Grace Under Fire"

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.0 KHz. SW. Tel: 74111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 Morning Show Cont.
09:00 Country Music
11:30 Hilville: The story of Motown
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Now Music
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Top Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Dhowing Music
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 30-minute Theatre
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Special Feature
18:30 Music
19:00 Newsdesk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

10:00 Koran
10:20 Programme Review
10:25 Cartoons and Children's programme
11:00 The Little
12:00 Religious series
12:30 Friday's prayer
13:30 Sport magazine
14:50 Religious seminar
15:25 Candid Camera
16:30 English series
17:00 Arabic series
18:30 Viewers' choice (Arabic)
19:30 News programme
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 A programme on the West Bank
21:30 Arabic Series
22:00 Varieties programme

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 International

07:30 Special 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Classical Review 08:00 World News 09:00 24 Hours News Summary 09:30 Peaches' Choice 09:45 The World Today 09:50 Newsdesk 09:55 Time for Verse 09:55 The Farming World 10:00 World News 10:00 24 Hours News Summary 10:30 New Waves on the Shortwave 10:45 Network UK 11:00 World News 11:00 Reflections 11:15 Country Style 11:20 John Peel 12:00 World News 12:00 British Press Review 12:15 The World Today 12:30 Financial News: Look Ahead 12:45 From Cradle to Grave 13:00 News Summary: Gold and Silver 13:30 Radio Active 14:00 News Summary: Just Little Of Time 14:09 News About Britain 14:15 News Ideas 14:25 A Letter from England 14:30 News from England 15:00 Radio Newsdesk 15:15 Multitask 2 — Top Twenty 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News 16:00 24 Hours News Summary 16:30 Network UK 16:45 Happy Talk 17:00 Outlook: Opening with News Summary 17:45 Write On... 18:00 World Newsdesk 18:15 The Pleasure of Yours 19:00 World News 19:00 Commentary 19:15 Assignment 19:45 The World Today 20:00 World News 20:00 A Letter from Scotland 20:15 Meridian 21:30 The Elements of Music 20:45 Sports Roundup 21:00 Newsdesk

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 720, 955, 11740, 11925 and 15210 KHz

06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 08:40 News 09:00 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 09:40 News 10:00 Newsline 10:30 VOA Morning 10:40 News 11:00 Newsline 11:30 Focus 11:30 Special English News & Features 20:00 News 20:10 Newsline 20:30 Magazine Show 21:00 News 21:10 Focus 21:30 Special English News & Features 22:00 News 22:10 Newsline 22:30 Music USA 23:00 News & Editorial 23:15 Music USA Jazz 24:00 News 24:10 World Report

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07:00 Light Music
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18:05 Special Feature
18:30 Music
19:00 Newsdesk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An art exhibition by Omar Boust at the Housing Bank Centre's gallery (until July 18).

* Paintings exhibition by Refat Al Hariri at the French Cultural Centre (until July 23)

* An exhibition of photographs on the history and development of Berlin City at the Soviet Cultural Centre (until July 16)

* A photographic exhibition by Zohrab at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Photographs exhibition by Mustafa Al Ma'ayrah at the Petra Bank Gallery — Wadi Saqra.

FEATURE FILM

* "Revolution" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.

CINEMA

* "Le tre sorde de Rokk: n le Rouge" at 10:30 a.m. and "La Gueule de l'Autre" at 8:00 p.m. Thursday at the French Cultural Centre.

JERASH FESTIVAL (July 8-31)

Thursday 16/7/87

* South Theatre: 7:30-8:30 — Iraqi National Folk Group

9:30-11 — Spain Modern Flamenco Group

* Sound & Light: 8-9 — Children's Play Wisdom Tree

10:30-10:30 — Royal Jordanian Music & Song

* Artemis Steps: 8-9 — Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe

9:30-11 — Tunis Armed Forces Band

* Forum: 6-7 — Jordan Armed Forces Band

7:30-9 — Local Folk Groups

Friday 17/7/87

10:05 Morning Show Cont.

11:00 News Summary

11:05 Listeners' Choice

12:00 News Summary

12:05 Listeners' Choice

12:30 Country Music

13:00 News Summary

13:05 Country Music

13:30 News Bulletin

14:10 News Summary

14:30 Jordan Weekly

15:00 In Concert

16:00 News Summary

16:05 Instrumentals

16:30 Old Favourites

17:00 In Concert

18:00 News Summary

18:05 Top Twenty

19:00 Newsdesk

19:30 Date with a Star

21:30 Follow the Wind

22:00 Jazz Hour

SERVICE CLUBS

The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphi Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphian Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Armed Automobile Club. Jabel Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman. Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Lubweidbeh. Tel. 637

Int'l labour seminars to be held in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) will hold three seminars in Amman in the coming months to tackle labour-related issues and means of rehabilitating handicapped persons, according to ILO assistant director, Ghaleb Barakat.

Mr. Barakat who is currently attending the Third Jordanian Expatriates Conference in Amman said that one of the seminars will deal with planning human resources, the second will tackle means of improving labour management and the role of em-

ployers in finding new jobs for workers, and the third will cover means of providing training for the rehabilitation of handicapped people.

The seminars will be held in conjunction with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, the University of Jordan and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Mr. Barakat said.

At present preparations are underway for holding a symposium in the spring of 1988 to discuss the subject of manpower migration among Asian and Arab countries. Fifty-five Asian nations are expected to take part in its deliberations.

Arab air carriers hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) Wednesday decided to set up a consultative committee to help the organisation's secretary general decide on matters pertaining to air transport operations in the Arab World.

The meeting, held under the chairmanship of Mr. Adli Dajani, the AACO's secretary general, was attended by heads of AACO's specialised committees from Arab member countries.

Mr. Dajani said that the participants reviewed a number of issues relating to the organisation

and to civil aviation in the Arab World.

AACO, established in 1965 with the initial membership of seven Arab states, now includes 14 countries.

The organisation aims at promoting cooperation among Arab airline companies, modernising techniques and services, and training personnel on simulators and other advanced equipment, according to Mr. Dajani.

The AACO was moved to Amman from Beirut upon a recommendation from the organisation's general assembly held in Sana'a last April.

Jordan observes 'Arab Bread Day' today

AMMAN (Petra) — Today is "Arab Bread Day," an annual occasion observed in implementation of a resolution passed by the first conference on the production of cereals in the Arab World held in 1984.

On the eve of the occasion, the Ministry of Supply issued a statement in which it reaffirmed the government's determination to go ahead with plans designed to improve bread production and provide the best quality at reasonable price for all citizens.

The statement quoted a ministry official as saying that plans are being made for setting up two modern automated bakeries in the governorates of Mafrqa and Tafleh and that licences are continually being issued for people wishing to open new bakeries.

The total number of bakeries in Jordan until the beginning of 1987 stood at 757, altogether producing 605 tonnes of bread every day. The Ministry of Supply issued licences for the opening of 51 more bakeries in the Kingdom between January and June of 1987, the statement said.

In the 1970s, bakeries in Jordan were manually operated. They did not provide enough bread for the rapidly increasing population, a situation which prompted the ministry to open three automated bakeries in Amman, Irbid and Zarqa, the statement added.

It said that all bakeries in Jordan are placed under constant control.

The government has become increasingly concerned with the cereal production since the 1950s when it was found that local production was not sufficient for the country's total consumption. An office was opened to take charge of the process of production, trading and marketing of cereals in the Kingdom.

In addition, the ministry maintains controls on the quantity and quality of flour produced by the country's mills, the statement added.

Cereal production has been a concern of Jordan as well as other Arab countries, but unfortunately consumption is rapidly outpacing production in the Arab World, the statement noted.

It said that the Arab World's total production of cereals in 1970-1975 averaged 69 per cent of the overall need, but this rate dropped in 1980-1982 to 50 per cent. From 1984 and 1986, it further declined to 40 per cent.

According to the ministry statement, the Arab World's total consumption of wheat in 1986 stood at 32 million tonnes whereas production stood at 9.5 million tonnes, prompting Arab countries to increase imports. It said that the Arab World now spends nearly \$7 billion on the importation of wheat from other nations.

5-year plan needs JD 3.2b — Muasher

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan needs JD 3.2 billion to fulfil the goals of its present five-year development plan and 44 per cent of that money would have to come from the private sector, Industry and Trade Minister Rajai Muasher said Wednesday.

The minister told Jordanian expatriates that the country needs private sector support to bring itself out of the present economic slump and called on expatriates to have faith in government laws providing incentives and protection for their possible investment in the Kingdom.

Dr. Muasher, speaking at the Third Annual Expatriates Congress, said the government's present economic policy is based on supporting the private sector and individual enterprise to contribute to the country's development.

"The government is committed to its firm policy of providing and guaranteeing protection and security for capital invested in Jordan," Dr. Muasher told hundreds of expatriates representing Jordanians living in nearly 17 Arab and other countries.

The government is ready to guarantee "convenient investment and tax incentives and infrastructure services needed for the success" of such investment, he said.

The minister pointed out that while the recession hitting the region is having "a negative impact on economic development in Jordan," he assured expatriates that the government is "in the process of containing these (negative) effects and limiting their influence" through sectoral and individual solutions.

Dr. Muasher said one of the main aims of the five-year (1986-90) development plan was to promote socio-economic goals such as achieving a steady rate annual growth of five per cent and reducing unemployment through new investments and an expansion of the social security system.

"The achievement of these goals requires an investment worth nearly JD 3.2 billion in which the private sector is expected to contribute 44 per cent," the minister told the conference.

He said the scarcity of local revenues has forced Jordan to "look for incentives that would attract capital from Arab and foreign countries."

According to Dr. Muasher, the

investment climate in Jordan is unique due to the Kingdom's political stability, its strategic location and its "free economic system." This, the minister said, "qualifies Jordan to become a trade and financial intermediary between regional markets."

The minister told the expatriates the government is committed to its pledges to carry out recommendations regarding expatriate investment. He said the government has already increased incentives and investment services for expatriates through intensifying contacts with host countries, expanding the base for tax exemptions and providing basic services for projects.

Dr. Muasher also told the conference the ministry has offered all available facilities for establishing a holding company owned by Jordanian expatriates, but added that the project "has not yet seen the light." He did not cite reasons, but said he hoped the resolutions of the conference, expected to be out on Thursday, will be "in the interest of Jordanians at home and abroad."

Ministry of Planning's Secretary General Ziad Fariz, addressing the conference later, said the government had taken steps in the area of international cooperation on the political and economic levels. He pointed out that Jordan, the first Arab country to endorse the Arab economic unity agreement, is keen on signing several trade and finance protocols with Arab and foreign countries.

Dr. Fariz said one of the five-year plan's main goals is to achieve a domestic revenue growth of five per cent by increas-

ing per capita gross national product from JD 695 in 1985 to JD 739 in 1990 — an annual increase of 1.2 per cent. He said the plan is hoped to create 97,000 new jobs by 1990 and to reduce imports by three per cent.

Dr. Fariz also told the conference that JD 4,049 million in financing would be required during the plan's duration, including JD 3,166 million in investment and JD 662 million in debt servicing. During the same duration, he added, JD 221 million would be needed as foreign reserve.

Ministry of Agriculture Under Secretary Salem Lawzi also spoke at the expatriates' meeting, saying the farming sector provides the livelihood of 20 per cent of the population in Jordan and jobs for 130,000 workers, which makes up 12 per cent of the total workforce.

The total investment in the farm sector during the five-year plan is JD 293 million, out of which 65 per cent is financed by the private sector.

Amman Chamber of Commerce President Hamdi Tabba' and Amman Chamber of Industry representative Ma'an Dabian, addressing the conference, said the private sector plays a major role in the areas of trade and industry.

Mr. Tabba' said the private sector "remains the party with flexibility that qualifies it to adjust to the economic needs of the current phase."

Mr. Dabian said protection of local industries is one of the government's main concern. He said the Chamber of Industry has so far registered 3,000 factories that provide jobs for 75,000 people.

Fiery flamenco dancers to ignite South Theatre

By Peter Baratta
Special to the Jordan Times

JERASH — The fiery, flamenco dancer Maria Rosa and her accompanying troupe will ignite South Theatre at 9:30 this evening 7:30 tomorrow evening at Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts.

One of the most famous flamenco dancers in Spain, Rosa performs regularly in her country's annual Spanish Festival. She has also performed throughout Europe, the Middle East, North, Central and South America, the Soviet Union, Africa and Japan, said Tahsin El-Ojelli, director of the Spanish Cultural Centre.

Rosa will be accompanied by a troupe consisting of one male singer, eight female and seven male dancers and one guitarist, he said.

The group's first act will include seven dance routines, while the second act will include four. The fourth routine in the first act, entitled "Vida Breve," was composed by Manuel de Falla, one of Spain's most famous composers of flamenco dance music, Mr. El-Ojelli added.

Flamenco dancing originated with Spanish gypsies in the Andalusian region of southern Spain and is recognised by its colourful costumes and fierce hand clapping and foot tapping, he said.

The audience will enjoy the group's performance because flamenco dancing is similar to certain forms of Arabic folk dancing, he said.

He related that Spain has participated in the Jerash Festival in previous years and is grateful for the chance to do so again.

"Spain participates every year in the Jerash Festival to help keep good relations between Jordan and Spain, especially the relationship between the kings, King Carlos and King Hussein," he said.



Tunisian folklore singer Sofia Al Sadeq performs at Jerash Festival

Tunisian troupe highlights traditional culture

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

JERASH — This is the second time the Tunisian National Group for Folkloric Arts is performing at the Jerash Arts Festival. This year, however, they are presenting new sketches and dances, including a traditional Tunisian wedding ceremony, and also a solo sung by the well-known Tunisian folklore singer, Sofia Al Sadeq.

The costumes of the performers vary in colour and style depending on what part of Tunisia the dance and music represent. The spectacular colours and movements of the performers, and the beat of the music, makes it hard for the audience to sit still without clapping and tapping their feet.

The manager of the troupe, Mr. Hamadi Benothman, told a group of journalists on Wednesday that 25 years after the formation of the troupe, the aim remains the same: to present an artistic por-

trayal of Tunisian folklore. He emphasised that one of the most important aspects of the troupe is to continuously progress and develop. He added that new dances, songs, and themes are continuously being used "because art always needs development."

Mr. Benothman, who has written 35 plays and received several prizes and medals at various festivals for his work, explained that what his group is presenting at this festival is not a complete theatrical musical, but merely a collection of various sketches where the theme of life in the desert and rural areas of Tunisia are portrayed.

The hour and a half performance should not be missed by those who are intrigued by the Maghreb.

Though they have already performed on Tuesday and Wednesday, the Tunisian group will stage two more shows on Friday and Saturday, July 17 and 18, at the Artemis Steps from 9:30 to 11 p.m.

Jerash Festival Schedule for July 16-23

Place	Thurs. 16/7	Fri. 17/7	Sat. 18/7	Sund. 19/7	Mon. 20/7	Tue. 21/7	Wed. 22/7	Thurs. 23/7
South Theatre 7-8								
7:30 - 8:30	Long National Folk Group	Spain Modern Flamenco Group						
9 - 11			Roma Lohand Libanese Night	Roma Lohand Libanese Night	Czechoslovak Folklore Group	Czechoslovak Folklore Group	Israel Dervish Sing. Group	Israel Dervish Sing. Group
9:30 - 11	Spain Modern Flamenco Group	Long National Folk Group						
South of Lights 8-9	Childrens Play Window Tent	Childrens Play Window Tent	Childrens Play Window Tent	Childrens Play Window Tent	Childrens Play Window Tent	Childrens Play Window Tent	Childrens Play Window Tent	Childrens Play Window Tent
9:30 - 10:30	Royal Jordanian Folk Troupe	Royal Jordanian Folk Troupe	The Jordanian Folk Band	Local Music & Songs Groups		Local Music & Songs Groups	Royal Jordanian Folk Troupe	
Amman Stage 8-9	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe
8 - 10								
9:30 - 11	Yemeni Folk Group	Yemeni Folk Group	Yemeni Folk Group	Yemeni Folk Group	The Moroccan A-RABAS Andalusian Song	The Moroccan A-RABAS Andalusian Song	The Moroccan A-RABAS Andalusian Song	The Moroccan A-RABAS Andalusian Song
Forum 6-7	Jordan Armed Forces Band	Jordan Armed Forces Band	Jordan Armed Forces Band	Jordan Armed Forces Band	Jordan Armed Forces Band	Jordan Armed Forces Band	Jordan Armed Forces Band	Jordan Armed Forces Band
7:30 - 9	Local Folk Groups	Local Folk Groups	Local Folk Groups	Local Folk Groups	Local Folk Groups	Local Folk Groups	Local Folk Groups	Local Folk Groups
9 - 11			Chen Acrobatic Troupe	Chen Acrobatic Troupe	Chen Acrobatic Troupe	Chen Acrobatic Troupe	Chen Acrobatic Troupe	Chen Acrobatic Troupe



Tunisian National Group for Folklore Arts delights audience with traditional songs and dances (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Rifai calls on expatriates to increase investments

(Continued from page 1)

back Jordanian industrial products and boost their competitive power in world markets, and has introduced regulations exempting local industries from customs duty and other tax on primary material imported for industrial processes and reducing charges on fuel consumption, the prime minister said.

He said the government had also set up an office at the Ministry of Industry and Trade to offer guidance service to expatriates in areas of investment and facilitate their enterprise.

The government now plans to appoint commercial attaches at embassies abroad to orient expatriates on opportunities for investment in the Kingdom, and anticipates opening additional Jordanian trade centres in Arab and foreign countries to help increase the volume of Jordanian exports, Mr. Rifai announced.

Referring to the expatriates conference, Mr. Rifai said that the government had implemented resolutions and recommendations passed by the first and second conferences.

A special department charged with handling expatriates' affairs has been created within the Foreign Ministry, and facilities have been granted for issuing passports to expatriates and for helping them to freely move their capital and belongings from and into the country, and the expatriates have been allowed to maintain dual nationality, the prime minister said. He said that the government had given its consent for the opening of a private university in Jordan to absorb more expatriates' children, and the Council of Higher Education had decided to increase the margin of expatriates' students in Jordanian universities and community colleges.

Referring to the question of unemployment, Mr. Rifai said this does not constitute a real problem for Jordan in the long run because the government had embarked on short and long term measures to deal with the situation.

Mr. Rifai said the government had taken steps designed to open more opportunities for Jordanian workers to get employment in Arab countries with which it had been

in continued contact. The government has been particularly in contact with countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) with the purpose of increasing their employment of Jordanian workers, Mr. Rifai said.

In addition, the government

Soviet team begins work in Tel Aviv

(Continued from page 1)

"How can you feel confident that they are there in a truly constructive mode to help make peace between Israel and her neighbours if they don't recognise and have full diplomatic relations with Israel?"

In Peking, a Chinese government spokesman said Wednesday that official ties between China and Israel were "simply out of the question."

The statement followed recent talks between visiting West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Chinese officials on the subject.

Israel and China have never had diplomatic ties, and Peking has said it will not establish for-

mal ties until Israel withdraws from territories occupied during the 1967 war.

Israel has demanded that China establish diplomatic ties as a condition to participation in the proposed international peace conference.

China supports the proposed conference.

"We support the convening of the international conference," Foreign Ministry spokesman Li Zhaoxing said. But he added that the conference and establishment of ties are "two different issues."

"We firmly oppose the policy of aggression and expansion of Israel," Li said. "At present, the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel is simply out of the question."

Unemployment at 8%

(Continued from page 1)

foreign labour employment to government measures restricting the labour market. Seventy-eight per cent of foreign labour in Jordan are workers from Arab countries with nearly 71,000 of those from Egypt.

The ministry paper said that there were nearly 328,000 Jordanians employed outside Jordan, out of whom 276,000 were in Arab countries, mainly states that are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). About 52,000 work in other countries.

Mr. Khasawneh said that in 1986 about 3,000 Jordanians found jobs outside Jordan out of whom 1,381 went to Saudi Arabia.

He said the year 1983 signalled the beginning of the shrinking of foreign labour markets for Jordanians with nearly 3,000 returning in 1986. About 5,000 Jordanians are expected to return by 1990.

Mr. Khasawneh said that the government was in constant touch with foreign governments for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of Jordanians working abroad. He noted that Prime Minister Zaid Rifai visited Kuwait last year and Mr. Hassan made similar trips to Gulf states to discuss the issue.

Vocational Training Institute Director General Munther Masri told the conference later that nearly 30,000 Jordanians would be trained in various fields, including vocational training, during the period of the 1986-1990 five-year plan. He said vocational training would help efforts to ease the problem of unemployment in Jordan.

Representatives of Jordanian expatriates heard measures to questions they raised in between speeches by officials. They later thanked the government for its concern for their problems.

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Peace conditions — a two-way street

THE current visit to Israel by a Soviet consular delegation has been overblown by Israel and its allies. Granted the visit comes in spite of a continuing embargo on official Soviet visits to Israel initiated in the aftermath of the 1967 war. But the scope and nature of the visit do not constitute any departure from the official Soviet stand which insists on an end to Israeli aggression and occupation of Arab territories before restoring diplomatic relations. This has been confirmed by the head of the Soviet delegation, Yevgeny Antipov, when he said upon arrival in Israel, the Soviet Union would not renew ties with Israel as long as there was no normalisation of the situation in the Middle East and the projected international peace conference on the Middle East was not convened.

Thus, by linking the restoration of Soviet-Israeli relations to both a peace conference and a resolution to the Palestinian problem, the Soviet Union is lending strong support to Middle East peace efforts.

China is also making its relations with Israel contingent on tangible efforts for a solution to the Palestinian problem. It is in this vein, in fact, that Arab calls for an international boycott of Israel were made. Had such a boycott materialised, the region might have not been kept paralysed for so long, waiting for an Israeli consent to hold an international parity on the Palestine issue and denied the just and durable peace for which we have been yearning.

The Soviet Union had recognised Israel since its creation in 1948 and had diplomatic relations with the Jewish state prior to the 1967 war. The severance of diplomatic relations should not mean breaking all contacts, especially if such contacts could further advance the cause of peace in the area.

It is true that in order for the peace conference to succeed and for the Soviet Union to play a useful role in it, Moscow must be on speaking terms with all participants. But it is equally true and important that the same principle should apply to the other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, who should be prepared to engage in official talks with all the involved parties, including the PLO.

While the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council may want to avoid dictating their conditions of peace on the antagonists, they cannot shirk their responsibilities and relinquish their roles as mediators at the conference. We believe this was what Mr. Antipov meant when he conceded that the conference would not force peace conditions on any of the involved parties, including Israel. It is for us Arabs, now, to declare to the world that we too will reject any coercion when peace terms are negotiated, especially those which could come from the Israelis themselves.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Another American 'hero'

IT is rather difficult to find a convincing explanation for current U.S. information media attempts to transform Oliver North from a deceiver into a national hero. The United States history abounds with names of national heroes for great feats and prominent political achievements for which they deserved the respect and appreciation of the American public. But we cannot imagine North's name to be among those men who among others include Abraham Lincoln and John Kennedy. What Oliver North did does not only represent a flagrant violation of the principles and ethics of the American nation or its values and justice but rather a direct insult to the American people. North has admitted to destroying official documents and forging others, and also misleading the U.S. Congress, that also he lied in most of his statements before the inquiry committee. North also admitted to being involved in the U.S.-Israeli-Iranian affair, the Irangate scandal, and that he had transferred funds to the Nicaragua contras now fighting the legitimate government in Nicaragua. Despite all that, the American media continue to present North as a national hero deserving appreciation and admiration, instead of calling for his condemnation and his punishment. This American media might be successful for the time being but we are certain that the American people cannot and will not show admiration for those who lie or commit forgery, and can never truly give appreciation to those that fuel conflicts.

Al Dustour: Masri briefs expatriates

FOREIGN Minister Taher Al Masri addressed the Third Jordanian Expatriates Conference in Amman, explaining Jordan's deep faith in the unity of Arab security and Jordan's national commitment to defend the Arab Nation. He also reiterated this country's commitment to work for the re-establishment of unity, of ranks among Arab states. The problems that stood in the way of holding an Arab summit in 1983 should prompt Arab countries to work towards overcoming them and towards holding such necessary meeting for the sake of achieving consensus and forging unified Arab action. Mr. Masri pointed to Jordan's support for Iraq in its defence of the Arab Nation in the face of Iranian aggression and expansionist designs. An Arab summit is needed now to find solutions for these problems and for ending inter-Arab differences over the Iran-Iraq war and enlisting all the Arab countries support for Iraq which is defending the eastern flank of the Arab World. In his address the foreign minister referred to the Arab Fez summit which he said had chartered a common Arab strategy, calling for the Arabs to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international peace conference that would guarantee the rights of the Arab people in implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. The minister said also that Jordan, through the Feb. 15 agreement of 1985, had sought to work with the PLO towards convening the proposed international conference; but the abrogation of that agreement can by no means change the Jordanian position vis-a-vis the Palestine problem.

Sawt Al Shaab: Soviet stand appreciated

THE Soviet Union's stand at a recent U.N. sponsored conference on trade development reflects Moscow's increased attention towards alleviating the sufferings of the poorer nations and improving the economies of Third World countries. The USSR's total aid to developing nations in the past year amounted to nearly \$24 billion, and its participation to a U.N.-fund for developing world trade has now reached 6.2 per cent. Moscow's increased keenness in this respect reflects that country's genuine tendency towards promoting international trade and economic cooperation with special attention to ties linking the Socialist bloc with the Third World.

Pakistanis at a loss to pinpoint blame for mystery blasts

By Oliver Wates
Reuters

KARACHI — The dust from bomb blasts which killed at least 72 people in Karachi had scarcely settled Tuesday before Pakistanis began the now-familiar exercise of speculating on who was responsible.

The government of President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq has been unable to catch saboteurs responsible for earlier bomb blasts which have killed around 150 people so far this year, or even to pin the blame firmly on any particular country or faction.

For many Pakistanis, frustrated at the continuing bloodshed of innocent people, the authorities' pledges that no effort will be spared to bring the culprits to justice have an all-too-familiar ring.

The problem is that several foreign quarrels which have spilled over onto Pakistani soil could be responsible, as could one of the internal feuds dividing this Muslim society.

Angry bystanders questioned at the scene of Tuesday's carnage were at a loss to say who was behind it.

Some speculated that it might be linked to conflicts involving

East. Others pointed at the long-standing rivalry between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslim sects or the ethnic feuds which have threatened to tear Karachi apart in recent months.

The provincial government of Sind, which includes Karachi, pointed immediately to outside involvement, in a press statement which said: "The explosions appeared to be the work of saboteurs of foreign origin."

Government officials have in the past favoured the Afghan explanation. Bomb explosions have been relatively frequent in the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP), which borders Afghanistan, for the last few years.

Many of them are aimed at the Afghan rebel groups which have offices in Peshawar, or hit some of the more than two million refugees from across the border who live in NWFP.

Pakistani officials have accused the government of sending saboteurs to destabilise the province, to put pressure on the Islamabad government to clamp down on the rebels' activities. Kabul has scorned the charges.

NWFP is ideal territory for a saboteur as it is awash with arms, many of them provided by the guerrillas' Western and Arab sup-

porters. It is also riven with blood feuds, both among the rebel groups and among the warlike Pashtun tribes of the Hindu Kush mountains.

Western diplomats in Islamabad say the expansion of the bombing to other parts of Pakistan since last March, especially to the traditional heartland of Pun-

jab province, poses Zia's government a far more serious political problem.

One attack killed several leaders of a militant orthodox Sunni group on March 23 in the Punjab provincial capital Lahore. The Ehl-i-Hadith group was known for being opposed to the brand of Islamisation pursued by Zia in his

10 years in power, but also for hostility to the minority Shi'ites. Other Lahore bombings, last Thursday, came on the eve of a major Shi'ite rally in the city, at which speakers demanded a greater political say for their community.

Tuesday's car bombings also had a possible Shi'ite connection in that they were placed on either side of a mosque belonging to a predominantly Shi'ite sect, the Bohris.

One bomb went off outside a building owned by a Bohri foundation and largely inhabited by the sect, while the second was placed next to a market called the Bohri Bazaar.

The main grounds for suspecting an Iranian angle relate to a violent clash last week in Karachi and the western city Quetta in which three people died and more than 20 were hurt.

Guns and rockets staged a dawn attack on houses occupied by an exile group fighting the government of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Several dozen Iranians were rounded up, but the Pakistani government has not publicly blamed any faction for the clash.

A foreign ministry spokesman in Islamabad instead warned that

Pakistan would not tolerate anti-Khomeini activities on its soil, stressing that relations with Tehran were excellent.

Exile groups say that as many as 10,000 fugitives from the Islamic revolution are living in Karachi, though Pakistan does not recognise them as refugees. An Iranian navy captain on a training course was murdered here last December.

Some bystanders speculated that the blasts might be linked to the impending trial of five Arabs accused of killing 22 people and wounding more than 100 in the hijack of a U.S. airliner in Karachi last September.

Security on Pakistan International Airlines operations abroad was stepped up months ago to prevent any possible attack in revenge for the trial, or for hostage-taking.

Karachi has been in the headlines since last October for the bloody ethnic riots which killed more than 250 people of the rival Mohajir and Pashtun communities.

Police, meanwhile, were revealing nothing of the direction of their investigations. "At this time there is no clue as to the bomb, but it definitely was big," inspector Arshad Kamal told Reuters at the scene of one of the blasts.

150 killed since January

KARACHI (R) — Chronology of major bomb attacks in Pakistan since the beginning of 1987:

January 19 — Sixteen killed, nine injured in a bus in Kohat, North-West Frontier Province.

February 8 — three killed, 26 injured in Peshawar, Frontier province capital.

February 15 — Eleven killed, 40 injured by truck bomb outside Afghan rebel office in Peshawar.

Most of the casualties were schoolchildren.

March 23 — nine killed, about 100 injured, at a rally of the Muslim party Ehl-i-Hadith in Lahore, political heartland of Pakistan. The dead included the party's leader. The blast came on Pakistan day, a national holiday.

April 10 — eighteen killed and more than 100 injured by a car

bomb in a bazaar in Rawalpindi, home of the armed forces headquarters and President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq's residence.

May 14 — seven killed, 32 injured by bus bomb in Peshawar.

June 2 — thirty injured in vegetable market in Rawalpindi.

June 3 — three killed, 25 injured in Peshawar cinema.

July 5 — seven killed, about fifty injured by three bombs in Lahore, at railway station and bus terminal. The attacks coincided with the 10th anniversary of the coup which brought Zia to power.

July 14 — at least 72 killed and 300 injured by two car bombs in a crowded shopping district in Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city.

Poindexter: Reagan unaware of funds diversion

(Continued from page 1)

end, think it was a good idea. But I did not want him to be associated with the decision," Adm. Poindexter said.

As for the arms deals, Adm. Poindexter contradicted the president, who has frequently said there were attempts to improve relations with Iran.

Adm. Poindexter said Mr. Reagan signed a secret document authorising the sales on Dec. 5, 1985. The document made no mention of a broader diplomatic initiative.

It was not until Jan. 17, 1986, that Mr. Reagan signed a second authorisation ching the broader diplomatic initiative. Adm. Poindexter said.

He said Mr. Reagan didn't know he had destroyed the first authorisation.

Adm. Poindexter answered questions under a grant of limited immunity after his attorney, Richard Beckler, disclosed he was the target of a criminal investigation by independent counsel Lawrence E. Walsh.

Mr. Beckler failed to persuade the panel to withdraw subpoena compelling Adm. Poindexter's testimony.

In an eye-opening morning of testimony, Adm. Poindexter also described a meeting in the White House residence in Dec. 7, 1985 in which Secretary of State George Shultz and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger advised Mr. Reagan against selling arms to Iran.

The president "pulled a footstool up to the coffee table" to listen, Adm. Poindexter recalled, and finally said, "I don't feel that we can leave any stone unturned in trying to get the hostages back."

Publicly, however, Mr. Reagan took a different position. "We did not, repeat, did not,

trade weapons or anything else for hostages, nor will we," the president said in a televised speech to the nation in November 1986, nearly a year after signing the secret authorisation.

Later, in March 1987, Mr. Reagan conceded after receiving the report of a commission he asked to investigate the Iran-contras affair that the deal had "deteriorated" into one that was tantamount to trading arms for hostages.

Adm. Poindexter said he and his predecessor as national security adviser, Robert McFarlane, had broader diplomatic purposes in mind for the arms sale. But he said the December authorisation prepared by the CIA, did not reflect their thinking.

At one point, the hostages included the CIA Beirut station chief, William Buckley. His captors announced Mr. Buckley's death in October 1985.

Adm. Poindexter resigned his White House post in November when the clandestine arms-to-Iran-money-to-contras plan was revealed to the public.

Mr. McFarlane on Tuesday lauded Lieutenant-Colonel North but disputed Col. North's assertions he had ordered Col. North to alter top secret documents to delete references to possibly illegal activities in support of the contras.

Mr. McFarlane, Col. North's boss at the National Security Council (NSC) from late 1983 to December 1985, told the Senate and House of Representatives committees probing the scandal he did not believe the marine officer had lied and explained the contradictory versions of events as differences of interpretation.

Mr. McFarlane praised Col. North for his "bravery and devotion to his country." But his rebuttals tended to contradict Col. North's contention through-

out his six days of testimony that he never carried out a single activity without higher approval.

"Col. North did report to me from time to time on a few, but certainly not all" occasions prior to conducting some of his activities, Mr. McFarlane said.

Mr. McFarlane, who asked to return to the hearings — he first testified in May — to rebut some of Col. North's testimony, said he did not order Col. North to alter six top secret NSC documents to delete references to Col. North's possibly illegal activities in support of the contras.

"This is incorrect," said Mr. McFarlane, who attempted suicide earlier this year apparently in remorse at his role in the affair. "In fact, Ollie proposed the revision of (those) documents."

He also said that contrary to the marine officer's testimony he had told his NSC staff that the so-called Boland amendments

passed by Congress barring aid to the contras from 1984-1986 applied to them and not just the CIA and the Defence Department.

"I did direct him not to solicit funds" for the contras, Mr. McFarlane said — again contradicting Col. North's assertion.

He also denied being the one who suggested falsifying a White House chronology of events to indicate that U.S. officials only found out later that a November 1985 shipment of arms to Iran by Israel were missiles and not oil-drilling parts.

"I don't think Col. North would ever make a deliberate misstatement or a lie," said Mr. McFarlane, himself a former marine lieutenant colonel and one-time mentor of Col. North.

"That leaves only the possibility of differing interpretations between us and I think that must account for the disagreements," he said.

Carbombs kill 13 in N. Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

Lebanon under a 1976 Arab peacekeeping mandate, and they hold the balance of power in north and east Lebanon and west Beirut.

Until Wednesday, at least 10 major bomb blasts, including three carbombs aimed at Syrian military buildings in west Beirut, had killed 39 people in Lebanon this year.

Sharaa briefs King Fahd

(Continued from page 1)

The non-aligned members whose views were taken under consideration by the big five on Tuesday are Argentina, Congo, Ghana, the United Arab Emirates, and Zambia.

The U.S. State Department

has predicted overwhelming approval in the Security Council of the resolution.

State Department officials have said the Soviet Union and China were willing — in principle, at least — to impose a U.N. arms embargo against Iran if it refuses to comply

Into historical perspective

The Anglo-French clash in Lebanon and Syria, 1940-45

By A.B. Gaumson
Macmillan Press, London

AT dawn, on 8 June 1941, Australian troops moved into Lebanon from Palestine, and simultaneously Free French and Indian troops crossed over into Syria. This was Operation Exporter, designed to prevent the Levant states, then under Vichy control, from becoming a Nazi base of operations at a moment when the Allied position in the Middle East was extremely precarious.

To ease the way of the invaders, General Catroux, de Gaulle's representative, issued a proclamation which included the fateful sentence: "I have come to terminate the mandatory regime and proclaim you free and independent."

For the next four years Syria and Lebanon were the scene of a three-way struggle between British, French, and indigenous Arabs. It was British troops which had made the main contribution to Operation Exporter, and which remained the ultimate sanction in the area, while the French were divided between the Free French, and Vichy supporters who remained strong in the administration. Most Arabs were interested only in getting rid of the French, whether Free or Vichy.

Complicating these divisions were clashes of personalities. General Spears, the francophile British member of parliament who had been largely responsible for bringing de Gaulle to England, was installed in Beirut charged with liaison both with the French and the Arabs. Disillusioned with Free France, enjoying Churchill's backing but increasingly at odds with the foreign office, he was determined that the promise of independence so

rashly given should be honoured. A frequently explosive de Gaulle was determined never to surrender what he saw as French rights to either Britain or nationalist Arabs, even if this meant maintaining a mandatory system that was plainly out of date and unworkable. The climax came when in November 1943 the French arrested the Lebanese president and prime minister, and six months later when they bombed Damascus. On both occasions the British had to step in to stop them.

BOOK REVIEW

Nothing did more damage to Franco-British relations in the war than the running Levant sore. Catroux was not the only one to toss the loaded name "Fashoda" into the argument. (Casey, the Australian minister of state in the Middle East had to ask for an explanation: How much better it would have been if all the others involved had lacked this folk memory.) Many of the principal actors in the drama have published their accounts of what went on, two of them Spears and de Gaulle, being masters of narrative prose. Dr. Gaumson has set out with the laudable aim "to take the Levant dispute out of the realms of autobiography, polemic and special pleading, and into a more adequate historical perspective." Most readers will agree that he has succeeded. He has consulted all the available records, but, though a work of scholarship and meticulous in detail, it is written in a clear and even epigrammatic style worthy of its theme — Middle East international. London.

E.C. Hodgkin

Poindexter brings arms probe to Reagan's doorstep

By Robert Kearns
Reuters

WASHINGTON — In the Watergate scandal, President Richard Nixon observed that using John Dean as the fall guy would "give 'em an hors d'oeuvre" that he hoped would keep investigators from coming back for the main course.

In the present Iran arms scandal, Oliver North's testimony has been an hors d'oeuvre that has investigators licking their lips for the main course.

More tantalising to investigators than North is his former boss, John Poindexter, who follows him to the witness table, at the joint Senate-House hearings on the secret sale of arms to Iran and diversion of profits to contras battling Nicaragua's leftist government.

But some investigators are

questioning if Poindexter will really be the main course or just another appetizer.

North captured the public imagination with his often eloquent defence of devotion to noble causes, his family, and his superiors.

A key figure in the scheme, who oversaw the secret sale of weapons to Iran and diverted profits to the Nicaraguan rebels, North admitted that he lied, cheated and shredded evidence.

He stuck his chin out defiantly and said he would do it again to help protect President Reagan and others involved in the effort to obtain Iran's help in freeing American hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon and later to help the contras keep "body and soul together."

Invoking duty, honour and country, and firmly denying he personally benefited from the

millions of dollars that passed through secret Swiss bank accounts controlled by his agents, North's testimony implicated many of the men he acclaimed as patriots.

He pointed his finger at Poindexter, the late Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director William Casey, and Robert McFarlane, Poindexter's predecessor as Reagan's national security adviser, and to a lesser degree at Secretary of State George Shultz and Attorney General Edwin Meese.

They were men, unlike North, who served as Reagan's closest advisers and confidantes.

Senate committee vice chairman Warren Rudman remarked that "I've said all along Admiral Poindexter will be the major witness... because the admiral had virtually open access to the presi-

dent."

North denied that he talked to Reagan directly, insisting throughout his testimony that he had only assumed Reagan knew what was going on and had authorised some of his activities.

"In every case I sent memoranda up the line," North said, always passing the buck to Poindexter or McFarlane or to Casey, who resigned in February and died in May after surgery for a cancerous brain tumour.

The flood of memos ranged from attempts to deceive Congress, funnel money to the contras, and conduct a jungle war in Central America, to complaints about an overdue raise for his secretary, Fawn Hall.

Poindexter, whom North called an "admiral I would follow up any hill, anywhere," can tell the committee whether the buck stopped in his office a few feet from Reagan's or if North's proposals made it to the president.

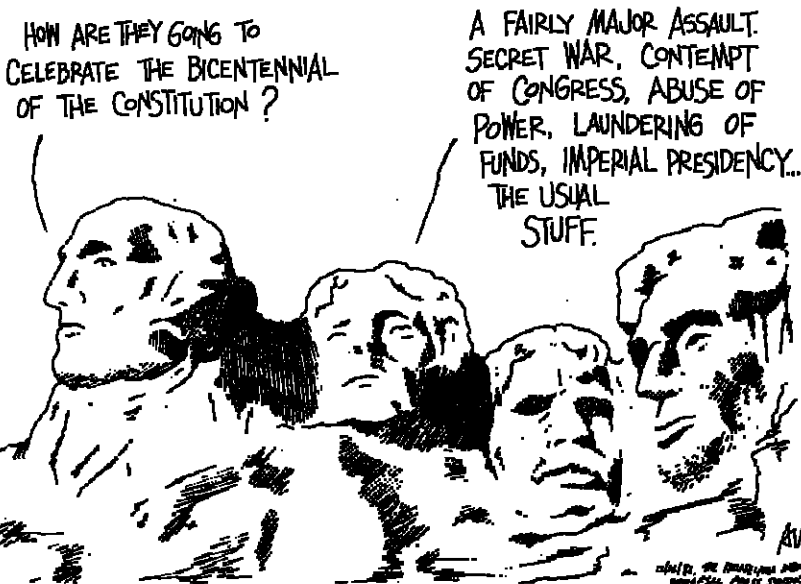
Reagan has steadfastly denied that he ever approved or knew of what North said "was a right, neat idea" in 1985 of using the Iranian arms sales profits to help the contras.

Polls show that while Reagan enjoys the general support of a majority of voters, they are sceptical about whether he has told everything he knows.

Committee sources said it is likely that Poindexter, like North, will accept blame but cite Casey as a ringleader.

Since Casey took his version of events to the grave, Congress and the public may never know who is telling the truth.

They may have to settle instead for what North and Poindexter can tell them, along with the testimony of lesser lights and mountains of documents.



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Scientists cite evidence for a tenth planet

By Jim Fuller
(USA)

WASHINGTON — U.S. scientists report indications that a 10th planet may exist that takes at least 700 years to orbit the sun and is five times more massive than the Earth.

At the same time, astronomers using new observation techniques have obtained what would be the best evidence yet for planetary systems orbiting other stars like the sun. The discovery of other solar systems would increase expectations about the possibility of extraterrestrial life in the universe.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) scientist John Anderson said in an interview July 9 that evidence for the existence of a 10th planet in the far outer reaches of our solar system is partially based on past unexplained variations in the orbits of Uranus and Neptune, the seventh and eighth outermost planets of the solar system.

The effect of the 10th planet's gravity on Uranus and Neptune would explain the orbital variations, which astronomers measured over a period of at least a century until 1910. From that year until recently, however, measurements have failed to show any unexplained outer planet variations.

Anderson maintains that this negative data, together with the absence of gravitational effects on two U.S. spacecraft now travelling through the outermost parts of the solar system, suggests that the orbit of the 10th planet is so distant and elongated that it only nears the sun and known planets every 700 to 1000 years.

In three years of precise measuring, Anderson has found no gravitational effect on Pioneers 10 and 11 that cannot be explained by the known nine planets. The two Pioneer spacecraft, both launched 15 years ago to explore the planet Jupiter and now heading into interstellar space, are sensitive to even minute gravity effects of planetary bodies.

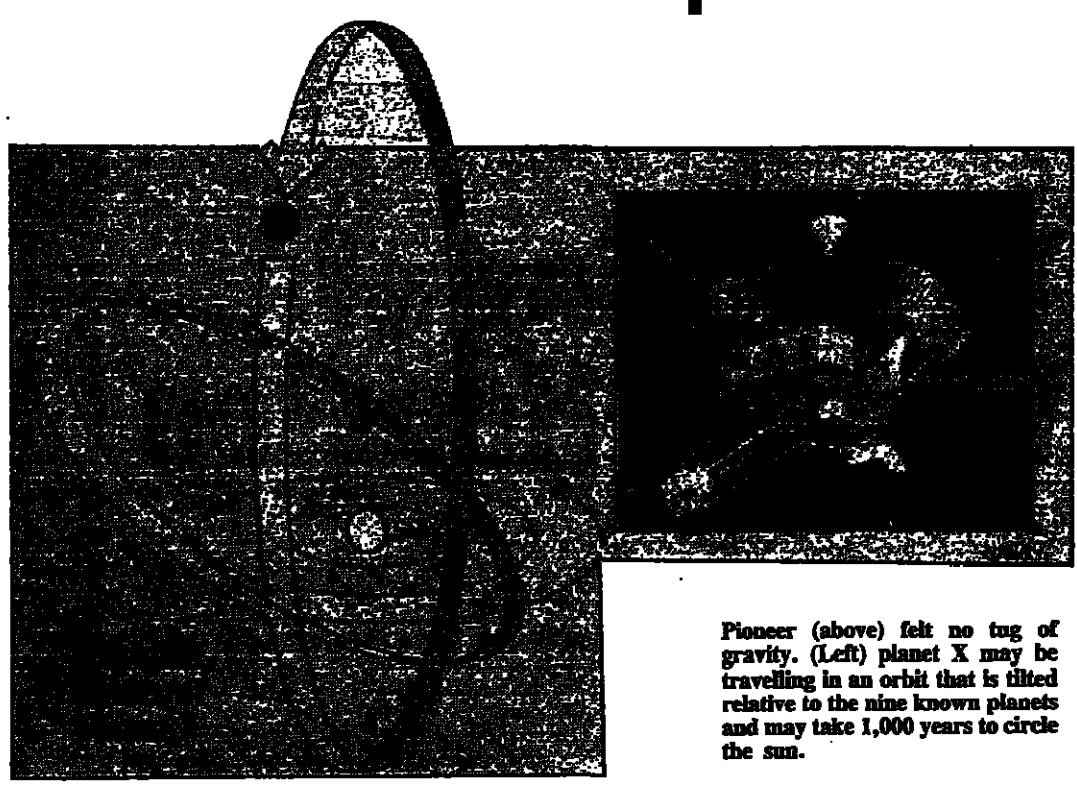
Anderson, a principal investigator in celestial mechanics for the Pioneer probes, said the data also indicate that the orbit of the 10th planet is very unusual, tilted at almost right angles to the orbits of the other planets and stretching anywhere from 16,000 to 32,000 million kilometres across.

"In order to reconcile the fact that you have something perturbing the orbits of Uranus and Neptune for more than 100 years, and yet nothing seems to disturb the Pioneer spacecraft, we had to create a rather unusual orbit for planet X," he said. "When you put all the data together you come up with this scenario of a planet X that's causing the disturbances."

Anderson said the bizarre orbit of the tenth planet is not unique in the solar system. The orbit of Pluto, the most distant known planet from the sun and somewhat smaller than the moon, is inclined 30 degrees above and below the plane of the other planets. And then there's Triton, the large moon of Neptune, whose orbit is highly inclined and in the opposite direction to other objects in the solar system.

Anderson said his data also tends to strengthen the idea that some kind of 10th planetary body may have caused the cataclysmic comet impacts with Earth that some scientists believe are responsible for periodic mass extinctions, including that of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago.

According to this theory, perturbations from the outer planets over millions of years cause the orbit of planet X to slowly shift, periodically carrying the planet into the Oort Cloud, a giant ring of comets and debris that scientists believe exists in the outer reaches of the solar system. The planet's gravity would then pull some of these comets into a collision course with Earth. Fossil studies indicate the peaks of extinction occur on Earth about every



Pioneer (above) felt no tug of gravity. (Left) planet X may be travelling in an orbit that is tilted relative to the nine known planets and may take 1,000 years to circle the sun.

26 million years, leading to speculation about some extraterrestrial cause.

Anderson said long time periods are needed to reach final conclusions about variations in planet orbits and that "you have to use all the data, including the Pioneer spacecraft, to conclude that planet X is far away now and not disturbing the outer planets, at least not at a detectable level."

Scientists at the U.S. Naval Observatory estimate that planet X, if it exists, has its closest approach to the sun in 1750 and is expected to make its next close approach between the years 2500 and 2800.

"But I don't think we have to wait till 2800 before it's detected," Anderson said. "If it's there it will be detected by some other means. The space telescope could make a contribution, or a new infrared facility," such as the Infrared Astronomical Satellite whose all-sky survey in 1983 found 10,000 galaxies never before seen.

Meanwhile, new data in recent months support the view of many scientists that planetary systems similar to the sun's are sprinkled throughout the universe.

A team of Canadian astronom-

ers, using a new telescopic technique, have discovered what could be the best evidence yet for planets around other stars. The astronomers told a recent meeting of the American Astronomical Society that their survey of 16 nearby solar-type stars revealed clear indications of two of them are accompanied by objects believed to be more massive than the planet Jupiter.

The astronomers conducted their observations for the past six years at the U.S.-Canada-France telescope atop Mauna Kea in Hawaii. While not able to observe the extrasolar objects directly, the technique used by the Canadian team involved measuring shifts in the spectrum of the star caused by a slight gravitational pull exerted on the star by the smaller companion object.

Earlier this year astronomers using a radio telescope at the California Institute of Technology discovered that a star much like our sun in its youth possesses a disk of gas orbiting it in accordance with 17th century astronomical theory. The discovery of the orbiting disk around the star HL Tauri is the most definitive demonstration yet that other stars might have planetary systems like our own.

But astronomers have yet to find a planet orbiting a star outside the solar system. More conclusive observations may not be possible until larger and more sensitive telescopes are launched into space, above the obscuring atmosphere of the Earth. Many astronomers express confidence that the breakthrough discovery will be made in the next decade.

Randa Habib's Corner Shocking

THE crime committed in Jabal Al Hussein, in which a businessman was shot dead in broad daylight, has stunned all Jordanians, accustomed to and proud of the stability and security that this country enjoys.

For a man to be robbed and killed in the heart of the city at 8:15 a.m., in front of so many eyewitnesses, is most shocking. But the crime has certainly developed a sense of cooperation between civilians and the police, who say they receive hundreds of calls from people eager to give the tiniest detail that may help in investigations.

I have seen policemen in the streets, a copy of the identikit sketch of the assailant in their hands, looking suspiciously at a dark-haired young man with a moustache. Unfortunately, the description of the killer is so common that it renders the job more difficult.

However, rewards offered by civilians, not directly involved, to any person who would hand over the assailant, are most encouraging. Apart from the Public Security Department, which offered JD 10,000, different prizes ranging from JD 1,000 and up, brought the whole reward for identifying the killer to JD 35,000.

Everybody wishes that this crime will remain an exception in our public records. And with this joint effort we are all convinced that the criminal will soon be brought to justice.

Pope's Polish love story gets big screen treatment

By Michela Wrong
Reuter

VATICAN CITY — At first glance it looks like the typical Hollywood blockbuster, with international stars including Burt Lancaster, Ben Cross and Olivia Hussey in the lead roles. But this is a film with a difference — the story was written by Karol Wojtyla, better known as Pope John Paul.

"The Goldsmith's Shop," the filmed version of a play written by the Pope more than 20 years ago, is being billed unashamedly as a love story.

"It's a new kind of story about what love means," Lancaster told journalists at a news conference last week. "It shows the power of love, what love can do to you if you can find the strength and faith to embrace it."

"I'm very impressed by what the Pope wrote."

Produced by Italy's national broadcasting network RAI on a \$9 million budget, the film is due to appear in cinemas here by Christmas and will probably be shown on television 18 months later.

World distribution rights are being negotiated with a major American company, RAI officials said.

"We chose this play because it is known throughout the world. Usually when you're discussing whether or not to produce a film you have to explain why the author was, or what its significance is. In this case, there was no need," said one official.

The original play, subtitled "Meditations on the Sacrament of Marriage," was written in 1960 when Monsignor Wojtyla was an auxiliary (assistant) bishop in the Polish city of Krakow.

His interest in the theatre dates back to World War II when, as a young man living in Nazi-occupied Poland, he performed in underground theatres and wrote plays.

"The Goldsmith's Shop," written in spare, poetic language, enjoyed considerable success and has since run to 50 million copies and been translated into 22 languages.

The story traces the experiences of two young Polish couples growing up in Krakow in 1939 whose lives are torn apart by the onset of the war.

Britain's Ben Cross of "Chariots of Fire" fame and American actress Olivia Hussey, still best remembered for her teenage performance in Franco Zeffirelli's

1968 sensual production of "Romeo and Juliet," take the lead roles alongside Italians Andrea Occhipinti and Jo Champa.

Twenty years later the survivors meet up again in Canada and try to come to terms with what they have made of their lives and their relationships.

At the centre of the story is the symbolic, mysterious figure of the old goldsmith, played by Lancaster, who offers fatherly advice to lovers coming into his shop to buy rings.

"Love is not an adventure. It cannot last for just one single moment. Man's eternal nature is expressed through love," the goldsmith says at one point.

"My role metaphorically represents God, which is a very strange role to be playing in any kind of film with any kind of authority or believability," said 73-year-old Lancaster.

He was talking to journalists via a televised link-up between Rome and cast members in Krakow, where filming is taking place.

Lancaster himself is no newcomer to Italian cinema, having starred in Bernardo Bertolucci's epic masterpiece "Novecento" in 1976 and Luciano Visconti's saga "The Leopard," in 1963.

Director Michael Anderson, famous for his productions of "Logan's Run," "Conduct Unbecoming" and "Around the World in 80 Days," denied that the papal signature on the original text had had any effect on his approach to the film.

"The Pope did not write the play," Anderson said. "The play was written by Karol Wojtyla — a man with a deep understanding of human nature."

"The author wrote a very simple and profound story and we have a duty to see that the story is told so that the thoughts and inspiration he had when he wrote it are not lost," Anderson said.

The Vatican itself, more accustomed to having films made about its pontiffs than written by them, has been understandably cautious about the whole enterprise.

A specially-appointed Vatican consultant has been visiting the set in Poland, will follow the troupe when they go to Canada to complete filming.

"These were the conditions set by Karol Wojtyla before he agreed to sign the contract," Guiseppe Farnedi, head of the Vatican's editorial library, told Reuters.

Soviet emigre artists in New York wonder, does anybody care?

By Jonathan Lyons
Reuter

NEW YORK — Soviet artists who emigrated to the United States to paint, write and dance have found the "freedom" they sought but not the fulfillment.

At home, they attracted the attention of a committed avant garde brotherhood, a small but steady audience and a broad security apparatus. Here, many feel lost and alone.

They have reverted to the strategies they used in the Soviet Union to pursue their own, private visions — taking outside jobs, living outside the system.

"There, somebody — the state, artists, the public — gave a damn," said flamboyant poet and artist Henry Khudyakov, who lives in a makeshift room atop a small house in Brooklyn.

"Now, I feel so free that I am disgusted with it."

For artists Rimma and Valery Gerlovins, emigration from their native Moscow brought a free-

dom to experiment with new media and top-quality materials. It has not, however, integrated them into the Western art scene.

"There we can do video, music, work with wood or metal," said Rimma. "It was like working with a chamber orchestra now it's an entire opera house."

"But for Russian emigre art as a movement, no-one cares about us. There was some interest, but not anymore," added her husband Valery.

All three are part of an artistic community, transplanted from the Soviet Union in the 1970s, that has come into its own on American soil while remaining largely outside the mainstream U.S. art world.

For years New York, like Paris, has been one of the leading centres of contemporary Soviet visual arts.

"The (emigre) artists in New York are offering some very strong work, much stronger for the most part than work going on

in the Soviet Union," said Gail Roman, a professor of Russian and Soviet art at Vassar College, in New York State.

"But unfortunately I can't say it's had any real effect on American artists," she said.

Among the barriers separating Soviet and American artists, Roman said, are the emigres' generally broader intellectual background, the presence here of a potentially lucrative art market and the Russian tradition of art as politics — first under the Tsars and now under the Soviet system.

"Emigre art has greater intellectual depth, even when it's bad art," said Valery Gerlovins during an interview in a studio in the industrial zone on the edge of Soho, the downtown Manhattan district where he and his wife work and live.

"In Russia neither philosophy nor visual arts existed as a pure discipline," he said.

As a result, Russian art has always bordered on philosophy and literature. The manifesto has

been as much a part of the art scene there as the canvas or the sketch board.

The Gerlovins' own works reflect this rich intellectual tradition.

Rimma, trained at Moscow state university as a philologist, uses words, phrases, and the letters of several different alphabets as part of her wood constructions. Many suggest the Russian futurists' books of the early 1900s, melding words, letters and graphic design.

Valery, meanwhile, has delved into numerology and ancient philosophy, covering a series of metal cutouts with Pythagorean and traditional Chinese number systems.

A show of their latest work ran in June at a gallery in New York's East Village, and a second show — in collaboration with a photographer — is set for November.

New York's art economics, with its emphasis on high payouts for those who win the favour

of prestige galleries, has kept many Soviet emigres — unaccustomed to competition for big bucks — on the fringes.

As a result the focus of current American art, say the Gerlovins, is technique, not content.

"American art is good-looking. In Russia viewers see the artist in every work," said Rimma. "Too many American artists look to sell today. They lack any historical perspective."

To pursue their own visions, Khudyakov and the Gerlovins have employed the same strategies they used as underground artists in Moscow.

Khudyakov, with his hypnotic rhythmic poetry and psychedelic painted jackets, ties and icon-like canvases, says he gets by, much as he did before — by living frugally and relying on friends.

"The situation (here) has begun to look to me the same as in the Soviet Union — no way out," said Khudyakov, a modern day icon hanging in the corner of

his studio behind his head.

"There is no place for artists from the street here. I am again a man of the street. I am unsuccessful, socially speaking. But my soul is clear."

As in Moscow, the Gerlovins have outside jobs, doing restoration work for galleries and museums. This, they say, frees them from gallery owners, publishers and other business entanglements that would limit their creativity.

The couple said their decision to come to the United States was a sudden one. The final move to leave was made in 1978 after postponing it each year since 1974.

"It was a one-day decision. We woke up one morning and decided. There wasn't enough space for us," said Rimma.

Now, there is space — perhaps too much space. "The atmosphere has changed but my life hasn't changed," said Khudyakov.

Machine-gun litany of auctioneer stirs fever of desire for things

By Mercer Cross
National Geographic

MOOREFIELD, West Virginia — Lottie Lakin would have had a conviction. The street in front of her house was barricaded. Hundreds of people were milling around her yard. A small man with a microphone stood on her porch, making a big racket.

In the course of her 79 years, Miss Lakin had earned a reputation as one of the crankiest citizens of this county-seat town of 2,400. She complained, regularly and profanely, about loudly played radios and anything else that rubbed her the wrong way.

When she died last fall, she had no idea that the yard of the unfinished, unpainted frame house her father was building when he died in the 1920s would be the scene of a memorable auction last spring.

Everything was sold: the house itself (for \$29,000); Miss Lakin's 19-year-old Mercury Comet (for \$200); her furniture (including a glass-front oak cabinet, for \$1,050); and a lifetime accumulation of hundreds of other possessions, some precious, many of dubious worth.

At the hub of all the commotion stood the veteran auctioneer,

44-year-old H. Junior Wilson, 125 pounds of nervous energy compressed in a 5-foot-5-inch frame.

For five hours, nonstop, Wilson and an assistant, Roscoe Collins, chanted into the microphone, a rhythmic machine-gun litany of words and numbers meaningful to the initiated, mostly unintelligible to the outsider.

"Chest of drawers, chest of drawers," Wilson began one Niagara of staccato verbiage. "Ten-dollar bill...5 bid 6 bid 6 bid 6 bid 6...bid 7 bid 7 bid 7..." and so on, a dollar at a time, until finally, "18,18,18! All done 18."

Wilson's sales are just a tiny part of a \$100-billion-a-year auction business in the United States. That figure is the estimate of Dean H. Parker of Logan, Utah, president of the National Auctioneers Association.

"The auction business right now is enjoying probably the greatest prosperity it ever has," says Parker, a leading auctioneer of horses. His association, headquartered in Overland Park, Kansas, has some 6,000 members among about 32,000 auctioneers, he says.

Parker attributes auctioneer-

ing's current boom to the growing realization of Americans that it's a good way to get top dollar for whatever they have to sell.

And that covers almost anything these days. Every day, somewhere, auctioneers are peddling livestock, tobacco, used cars, real estate, fine art, antiques, industrial machinery. You name it, somebody's auctioning it.

Some auctions, particularly in rural areas, are more than mere sales. They are, like the one for Lottie Lakin's estate, community events. "This marks the opening of the spring social season," said one Moorefield matron, taking in the scene from the street.

In many states, including West Virginia, auctioneers must be licensed. To qualify for licensing, prospective auctioneers go to auction schools.

The largest of the 10 or 12 schools is the Missouri Auction School in Kansas City. Students — average age 27 in summer and 33 in winter — pay \$425 each for a rigorous two-week course that includes long hours of lectures and oral drills.

They emerge with the basic tools of their trade. To succeed, they need more than that. "To be

a good auctioneer, you've got to have good product knowledge," says Richard W. Dewees, president of the Missouri school.

"I like a guy that is clean-cut and looks a lot like a businessman, because he is a businessman," Dewees says. "You don't want some hippie out there."

Good ones can make plenty of money from their commissions. Much depends on where they live and the product they sell. "I know lots and lots of auctioneers who make six figures," Dewees says. "And I know lots who make half that."

Junior Wilson, working in the sparsely populated farm country where he was reared, doesn't earn that much from auctioneering. He also raises cattle on a 40-acre farm near Moorefield and sells real estate outside his auction business. He frequently auctions real estate at foreclosure sales on the courthouse steps. In an average year, he says, he conducts 10 or 15 estate sales.

"Better than average" was his description of the Lottie Lakin auction. He wouldn't disclose the total amount of the sale. His commission, with a bonus from Miss Lakin's niece, brought him close to \$2,000.

Wilson has been auctioneering around Moorefield since he was in high school. He is a 1965 graduate of an auction school in Decatur, Indiana. At the Lakin auction he knew most of the people in the crowd, including knowledgeable antique dealers, farmers in bib overalls and feed caps, and modish couples in running shoes and designer jeans.

Wilson, a taciturn fellow when he's not working, quotes a slogan that he says governs his sales: "You can shear a sheep once a year, but you can only skin him once."

Applying this maximum to the Lakin sale, he informed prospective bidders of cracked, chipped, or otherwise damaged merchandise. "It worked for just a little bit the other day," he said of an old mantel clock. "It has worked and not worked. But it does have movement occasionally — just like the rest of us." The clock sold for \$65.

Some bidders left with bargains. Others, swept up by the excitement of bidding, probably paid too much. Wilson was philosophical.

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'Final offer' given to N.Korea to host 2 more Olympic games

Pyongyang says the package falls well short of its demands

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (Agencies) — A sweetened package of five sports was offered to North Korea by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Wednesday, and the IOC's president warned that time was running out for solving the question of whether to stage part of the 1988 games in Pyongyang.

The North, threatening a boycott if its demands are ignored, immediately said the package was not good enough and blasted the IOC's decision to hold the games in the South Korean capital of Seoul in the first place.

With the women's volleyball tournament and the full route of the men's 100-kilometre cycling road race added to a 13-month-old proposal including table tennis, archery and soccer, IOC chief Juan Antonio Samaranch asked North Korea and South Korea to quickly accept the panel's latest "final offer."

The new offer falls well short of North Korea's demand that it be given a full third of the 23 Olympic sports, including 237 individual events, set to open in Seoul on September 17 next year.

"The offer we are making is a last one, final one, and we are awaiting a positive answer," Samaranch said. "If we don't receive one, time passes very quickly."

He noted that the games are set to start one year from Sept. 17. While not setting that as a deadline for resolution, he called it "a very important date."

South Korea has indicated a willingness to go along with whatever the IOC proposes, saying that what is good for the international committee is good for Seoul.

"We are in the same boat and

are cooperating fully with the IOC," Kim Chong Ha, president of the South Korean Olympic Committee, said.

But the North Koreans said they still wanted a total of eight sports, including the entire soccer tournament, men's basketball and wrestling.

Chin Chung Guk, vice president of the North Korean Olympic Committee, added that his panel would study the latest plan and reply to Samaranch as soon as possible.

He blamed the South Koreans for failure to reach a full agreement, as Samaranch had hoped, and said the decision by the IOC in 1981 to award the games to Seoul was wrong.

"No final agreement was due to the insincere efforts of the South Koreans," Chin said. "The (political) situation in South Korea is telling the world it was the wrong decision to award them the games. It is insecure."

Samaranch said that, as IOC president, he would be "the first to defend giving the games to

Seoul. I have to and I want to." Samaranch has worked for 18 months to try to bring the two Koreas together on the co-host issue.

In June 1986, after the third joint session with representatives of the two sides, Samaranch offered the North the full archery and table tennis tournaments, the start of the cycle race and a quarter of the preliminary matches in soccer. He called it the IOC's final offer and said that only "minor concessions" — and no more sports — would be added.

The additions proposed during the fourth joint session, Samaranch said at a news conference, were made after reviewing the demands of the two sides and consulting with officials from the Korea and the international sports governing bodies involved. He said the changes measurably improved the package for the North Koreans, especially the addition of women's volleyball, a high-profile sport in which the United States excels.

Libyans refuse to play Egypt

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (AP) — Libya put a last-minute stop Tuesday to a planned basketball match against Egypt. It would have been the first sporting event between the two countries in nine years.

The match was scheduled in the men's quarterfinal round of the World University Games in Zagreb. Both teams declared on Monday they were ready to play.

On Tuesday the Libyans changed their minds and refused to play. Egypt was declared a 2-0 winner.

The Libyan delegation delivered a verbal declaration that the match would not be played, Egyptian chief delegate Ibrahim Hassan said.

B. Lamen Salem, an official of the Libyan delegation, said, "we would never play a team representing Egypt."

"We are trying to bring down the Egyptian government and replace it with a revolutionary government like our own," Salem said.

He would not explain why another Libyan official had said on Monday their team would play Egypt.



ALMOST: Al Baqaa barely misses scoring in held at Amman Stadium on Wednesday (Photo by its 3-0 defeat to Al Hussein in a First Division game Abdullah Ayyoub)

Top Brazil soccer clubs, under financial straits, quit confederation

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Thirteen major soccer clubs have announced they will organize a 1987 national championship in defiance of the Brazilian Soccer Confederation (BSF).

Club officials of the so-called "group of 13" met Monday night with confederation President Octavio Pinto Guimarães and presented a 10-point programme, totally restructuring the national

championship and the sports calendar.

"Our position is decided," said Carlos Aidar, president of national champion Sao Paulo. "We will hold the Brazilian championship with only 13 clubs."

The group of 13 represents the elite of Brazilian soccer: Flamengo, Fluminense, Vasco da Gama and Botafogo of Rio; Sao Paulo, Palmeiras, Corinthians and Santos of Sao Paulo; Atletico Mineiro and Cruzeiro of Belo Horizonte; Internacional and Gremio of Porto Alegre; Bahia of Salvador.

Members of the group have won 14 of the last 16 national titles. They account for some three-fourths of the ticket-paying fans and nearly the entire national all-star team.

"This is not a movement, this is a revolution. And the cannons are pointed at the soccer confederation," said Marcelo Guzela, soccer director of Atletico Mineiro.

The clubs claim they are in the red because of an excessive number of teams — 28 or more — in the First Division. The means expensive road trips, two or even three games a week and deficit-producing matches against minor regional clubs.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Qatar, Italy under-16 soccer teams draw

TORONTO (AP) — Midfielder Khairi's shot deflected off an Italian defender into a wide open net, lifting Qatar to a 1-1 tie with Italy in the under-16 World Cup tournament. The Italians scored first Tuesday in the 66th minute when Massimiliano Cappellini headed a free kick from Andrea Bianchi. Qatari keeper Fared partially blocked the ball, but it barely bounced over the line for the goal. The tie leaves Italy and Qatar with identical 1-0-1 records.

Maradona's brother to play in Italy

MILAN, Italy (R) — Hugo Maradona, 18-year-old brother of Argentine World Cup captain Diego Maradona, will play for Italian First Division club Ascoli next season, soccer officials have said. Maradona's club Napoli agreed to "loan" Hugo to the central Italian club after acquiring the youngster from Argentinos Juniors.

English F.A. Cup winners buy Speedie

COVENTRY, England (R) — Coventry on Wednesday cashed in on their F.A. Cup success when they signed Chelsea's Scottish international striker David Speedie for £750,000 (\$1.2 million). Team manager John Sillett, who masterminded the unfashionable Midlands Club's defeat of Tottenham in the F.A. Cup final at Wembley in May, said: "This shows we mean business. I have long admired David's ability as a player and at last we've got him."

Briton knocks out top seed Noah

BORDEAUX, France (R) — Top-seeded Frenchman Yannick Noah was knocked out of the first round of the Bordeaux Grand Prix tennis tournament Tuesday night by unseeded Briton Jeremy Bates. Bates lost the first set of the rain-delayed match 2-6, but dominated the rest, winning 6-4, 6-2 against a player lacking concentration and motivation.

Olympic tourists must carry AIDS-free certificate

SEOUL (R) — Tourists visiting South Korea for next year's Olympic Games will have to carry certificates declaring they are free of AIDS, Health Minister Rhee Hai-Won said Wednesday. Rhee told reporters about 300,000 foreign visitors were expected for the games and there were fears they would cause the killer disease to spread here.

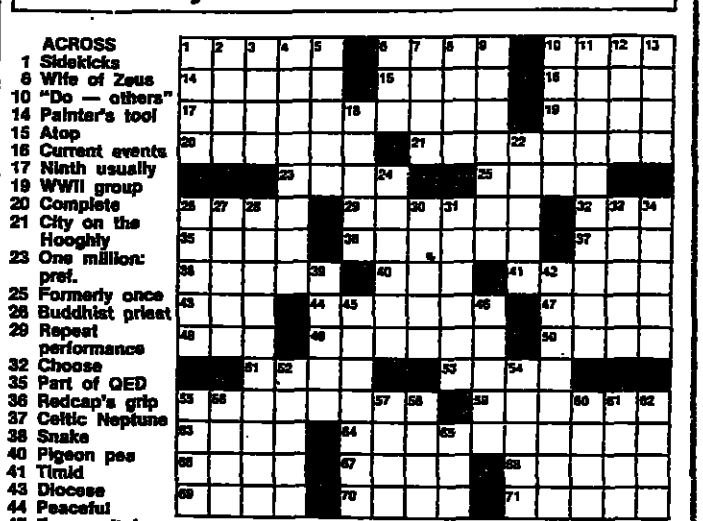
The minister, due to attend an Asia-Pacific AIDS Conference in Sydney next week, said he hoped other governments would give public backing to Seoul's decision to demand that all Olympic fans carry such certificates.

The South Korean government has already announced plans to introduce a law that would punish anyone spreading the virus with up to seven years in jail.

The legislation, which will go before parliament later this year, would also ban foreigners carrying the virus from entering the country and restrict the activities of other AIDS carriers.

Ministry officials said the country had no confirmed cases of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome even though eight people, including three women prostitutes, had shown positive results in AIDS antibody tests. In February, a 62-year-old man suspected of carrying the virus died. The ministry has refused to regard him as the country's first AIDS fatality, claiming his death was not caused by the virus.

THE Daily Crossword by Samuel K. Flegner



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Gentle maiden	8. Me Barret	15. Musical instrument	22. Tyrant
2. Br. carbine	9. Fisherman	16. Sedate	23. Eye affliction
3. Was indebted	10. Parultimate	17. Exchange premium	24. Relative of etc.
4. What dieters count	11. Mountain in Texas	18. More unctuous	25. Peculiar
5. Seaweed gel	12. Midwest desert	19. Bud Abbott's partner	
6. Finally	13. Indians	20. Approximate calculation	
7. Roster	14. Garland	21. Emmett Kelly was one	
8. Acolad	15. Minimal	22. Shakespearean forest	
9. Mitigate	16. Shakespearean forest	23. Built for extended use	
10. Eager	17. Scott, family groups	24. Do for size	
11. Cosseter	18. More unctuous	25. Fare	
12. — Dams	19. Hostess Merva	26. Do a house-hold chore	
	20. Do for size	27. Approximate calculation	
	21. Fare	28. Emmett Kelly was one	
	22. Bud Abbott's partner	29. Approximate calculation	
	23. Emmett Kelly was one	30. Shakespearean forest	
	31. Built for extended use	32. Scott, family groups	
	33. Do for size	34. Fare	
	35. Bud Abbott's partner	36. Approximate calculation	
	37. Emmett Kelly was one	38. Shakespearean forest	
	39. Built for extended use	40. Scott, family groups	
	41. Do for size	42. Fare	
	43. Bud Abbott's partner	44. Approximate calculation	
	45. Emmett Kelly was one	46. Shakespearean forest	
	47. Built for extended use	48. Scott, family groups	

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Rain washes out 2nd day of tennis event

LIVINGSTON, N.J. (R) — Second seed Wally Masur of Australia has held a one-set lead over American Jeff Tarango when heavy rain washed out play in the \$125,000 New Jersey Grand Prix tennis tournament. Ten of 11 first round matches scheduled for Tuesday were lost to the weather. In the only match decided, Rich Matszewski was awarded victory over qualifier Rich Schmidt after his fellow-American was forced to retire early in the first set with a twisted ankle.

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OPERA

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Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

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Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 622148
RAGHADAN

TOM BOY

Performances: 12:15, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6130/40	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3205/15	Canadian dollar
	1.8485/95	West German marks
	2.0805/15	Dutch guilders
	1.5395/5405	Swiss francs
	38.34/37	Belgian francs
	6.1520/50	French francs
	1337/1338	Italian lira
	151.05/15	Japanese yen
	6.4375/4425	Swedish crowns
	6.7500/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.0150/0200	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	448.00/448.50	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — After a strong opening, share prices fell back from all-time highs on news of a larger than expected U.S. May trade deficit. But Wall Street's muted response to the news helped equities recover from the day's lows.

At 1450 GMT, the FTSE 100 share index was 8.8 up at 2,411.8 after reaching a record high of 2,424.5.

Many dealers said the disappointing U.S. trade news has dampened sentiment towards equities but not unsettled the market. However, the dollar's renewed weakness has rekindled concern over its effect on major exporting companies, dealers said.

Operators said the dollar's volatility and the apparent U.S. inability to redress the U.S. authorities may be forced to tighten monetary policy, with repercussions on U.K. domestic interest rates.

Sterling firmed around two cents against the dollar, having broken through to \$1.6240 to close three basis points higher at a trade weighted 73.3. Government bonds showed gains of up to 3/4 point in response to the pound's strength and the increased prospect of funds being diverted from the U.S. bond market, dealers said.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Although anxious to begin some new interest or activity, you should study your plans carefully to know what is expected of you. Not a day to ask for favors. Rely on yourself.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be considerate of others, even if you're busy or worried. Make a new influential friend, and improve your lifestyle.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be alert — don't let worry cloud your vision. Your mate may want a change, but remain firm and logical.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Don't let a disgruntled friend influence your opinion, but jump on a career advancement opportunity. Stay cheerful.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Don't tell others how to do things. Do well at yours so you're not criticized. Drive carefully.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Study a new project before involving yourself — know the facts. Be careful of a new person, and be cautious all day.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Fulfill a promise — don't try to change the terms. If your mate is restless, use kindness and patience to alter the mood.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Don't allow a dynamic partner to change an agreement, but be tactful. Watch troublesome public matters.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Study new ideas before using them in your work. Listen to gripes from fellow workers, but don't act on them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't give up a proven pleasure for an unknown. Take no risks today, and don't despair while driving.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Study the matter before making a big change at home, then let it wait. Allow no strangers in your home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get to the source to find the facts. Not a good day to visit a prominent person, as you may have planned.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Changes in business to increase income are risky — set up a wiser budget instead. Enjoy time with your mate tonight.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have insight into modern advances to find ways of making them work to great advantage. Your child will have great ideas, so give him or her an education suitable to the brilliant mind he or she has. Training in psychology and sports are beneficial.

*** FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JULY 17, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Problems confronting you can be handled easily and with a smile. Dealing with your home life is the first priority, studying and pursuing ambitions come second.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be sure your basic securities are strong before entering into new interests. Always check the facts first.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Give serious consideration to a plan your mate has for achieving goals. Consider whether or not new projects have merit.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Put financial affairs on the back burner for awhile. Concentrate on socializing, but spend money carefully.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Avoid entanglements in public affairs. Try to be efficient, and don't procrastinate.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Don't lose your temper over things you can't control. Enjoy a familiar amusement, but watch your budget.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Find a new and different way to endear yourself to your loved one. Home conditions will improve considerably.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Avoid arguments concerning business affairs. An opportunity to achieve a goal arises, so don't miss it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Keep busy with planned activities, and don't change methods which have always worked well in the past.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be sure you can afford the recreations you desire, but gain the approval of those who really count.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't get involved in an altercation between an outsider and a family member. Ignore demands made of you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You may miss out on something important if you don't stay near the phone. Confirm your alliances.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Schedule your time wisely, leaving space for recreation. Don't burn any bridges today, there may be a flood coming.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will find it difficult to know whether to follow the head or the heart. A good education will help your child strike an equitable balance. This child should get much encouragement in all endeavors. Business success and a happy home life are just down the road.

S. Arabia fails to maintain reforms

BAHRAIN (R) — The abrupt closure of Saudi Arabia's first share trading floor has dampened hopes for early reform of the kingdom's legal system to speed up recovery of bad debts, bankers say.

Bankers had seen the opening in May of a computerised stock trading floor in Riyadh as part of wide-ranging measures to bring Saudi banking more in line with Western practices.

Dealing was suspended on June 1, apparently because of computer problems and lack of facilities for trading large block of shares, and dealers in the 46 listed stocks reverted to the loosely coordinated telephone and telex market.

But bankers and lawyers said the three-week experiment with what amounted to a stock exchange had highlighted the wider problem of fitting a Western banking system within an Islamic legal structure.

Differences between the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) and the ministry of commerce over who should regulate share transactions masked underlying concern by Saudi Arabia's religious hierarchy over the pace of reforms, they said.

"Far from ushering in a new period of reform, the stock exchange appears to have opened up old wounds," said one banker in the kingdom.

A council of ministers' resolution passed on March 10 announced the formation of a three-man committee under SAMA to hear loan disputes between banks and their creditors. But the committee, which was to have wide-ranging powers including the ability to recommend "the freezing of the assets of the debtor and prohibiting him from travel," has yet to materialise.

Saudi Arabia's banks, once the most profitable in the world, have seen profits eaten away as they have had to build huge debt provisions to cope with the rising volume of non-performing loans sparked by the downturn in oil prices at the start of the 1980s.

Bankers and lawyers said attempts to recover loans through the courts have invariably been difficult and the concept of interest — viewed as usury under Islamic law — has never been recognised.

Some borrowers have taken advantage of this to avoid repayment of debts, and in extreme cases interest already paid has been deducted from the amount of principal outstanding on a loan.

Rumours that the new SAMA committee would enforce payment of interest appear to be unfounded, but could have added to a religious backlash now detected against the plan, bankers and lawyers said.

"I was sceptical about the committee from the outset," one Western lawyer in the kingdom said. "A backlash from conservative elements in society was to be expected."

A Riyadh-based banker, who remains confident the committee will be formed late this year, said: "Interest payments are secondary. We would be quite happy to get the capital (on loans) back."

But the delay has effectively brought bank cases to a standstill. The council of ministers resolution No. 729/8 called for a halt to all litigation before the so-called committees for the settlement of commercial disputes, until then the main forum for bank loan disputes.

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Aquino sets up experimental self-government for tribes

MANILA (R) — President Corazon Aquino signed a decree Wednesday setting up a limited form of self-government for one million mountain tribesmen that could become a forerunner to autonomy for the Philippines' Muslim south.

The decree establishes an experimental administrative body and a legislature for the Cordillera Mountain region inhabited by more than 100 small tribes that have suffered from centuries of neglect by the central government in Manila.

The five-province region, about 325 kilometres north of Manila, is rich in timber, gold, copper and other minerals that up to now have been exploited largely by foreign businessmen.

It is also a hotbed of an 18-year insurgency led by the Communist New People's Army (NPA).

Under the decree, the region would have a chief administrative officer appointed by Mrs. Aquino and a security force or militia that would keep the peace in the area. The militia would be under military supervision.

A government team negotiated details of the decree with a group of tribesmen led by renegade Roman Catholic priest Canrado Balweg, who once fought alongside the NPA but broke with them last year to negotiate peace with Mrs. Aquino.

Chief government negotiator Emmanuel Pelaez said he believed Balweg could be a leading

there was "a good chance" negotiations could resume soon.

Officials stressed that the Aquino decree was not a formal grant of autonomy to the Cordillera but a step towards a permanent self-rule envisaged within 18 months.

The autonomy grant would be contained in a law to be enacted by Congress, which convenes on July 27.

Asserting Manila's continuing overall control of Cordillera affairs, Mrs. Aquino said after signing the decree "this first measure of autonomy and all other measures that will follow upon it cannot in any sovereign sense subdivide the territory of our state."

Meanwhile 41 people, including 21 guerrillas and 18 soldiers, have been killed in recent clashes between Communist rebels and Philippine troops, army field commanders said Wednesday.

Col. Reynaldo Gopalan said scores of soldiers, rebels and civilians were wounded when the Communist New People's Army (NPA) launched simultaneous dawn attacks on two army detachments in southern Samar province Tuesday.

Col. Gopalan, the army deputy brigade commander, told reporters 21 guerrillas were killed when soldiers and militiamen defended their positions and fought the attackers in Neni village near Mondragon town.

FAO says 5 African countries face food emergencies

NAIROBI (R) — Five African countries, Mozambique, Angola, Ethiopia, Botswana and Lesotho, face exceptional food emergencies this year, a key United Nations agency said Wednesday.

And in the Sahel countries of the tropical zone south of the Sahara Desert, locusts and grasshoppers pose a serious threat to crops, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said.

A report by the agency expressed particular concern about a continued decline in cereal production in Mozambique because of fighting between the government and rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR).

"The food supply situation (in Mozambique) has deteriorated seriously in recent months mainly as a result of insurgent activity, but also because of drought in some parts. The number of displaced and affected people is estimated at over four million," it says.

The report, entitled "Food Supply Situation and Crop Prospects in Sub-Saharan Africa," says civil strife is also behind food shortages in Angola, where government troops are fighting rebels of the South African-backed UNITA movement.

The report repeated previous FAO statements on a threat from locusts and grasshoppers, saying that unless the agency's emergency control programme was successful, the implications for harvests could be serious.

The menace stretches from Ethiopia in the east to Senegal on the Atlantic coast.

Mozambique's 1987 cereal crop, harvested in April and May, was probably about 350,000 tonnes, and only 40,000 tonnes of that are likely to reach the market, the rest presumably consumed by subsistence farmers.

Past harvests have averaged about 560,000 tonnes.

50 feared dead in French landslide

ANNECY, France (Agencies) — Fifty people were feared dead on Wednesday after a wall of mud and water smashed through a holiday camping site in the French Alps, sweeping away tents, caravans and cars, police said.

Police running a crisis centre to deal with the flood disaster said 22 bodies had been discovered, and hope was fading for 28 people still missing, almost 24 hours after a violent summer storm turned a mountain stream into a raging torrent.

Police in neighbouring Switzerland fished five bodies from the River Arve. The mountain river running through the campsite at Le Grand-Bornand runs into the Arve.

There was little prospect that the missing 28 would be found

alive, a police spokesman said, adding it was believed all the victims were French tourists.

About 40 people were injured, ten of them seriously, he said.

Bodies were found buried under piles of mud, snaggled onto rocks at the side of rivers and washed far down the River Borne into Switzerland.

About 150 campers and 70 trailers were in the two adjacent tourist parks at the time of the 6:40 p.m. landslide, officials said.

Five or six of the missing people were buried in the mud, according to witnesses. Others were believed drowned, officials said.

A mortuary was set up in Grand Bornand on Wednesday morning and authorities began trying to identify the dead, including an 11-year-old boy.

U.S. seeks to improve Moscow embassy security

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House said Tuesday that studies of espionage problems at the American embassy in Moscow have proven the need for bold action to prevent a recurrence of "the serious breakdown in our defences" to Soviet intelligence forces.

President Ronald Reagan's administration "has given high priority to improving our ability to detect and counter espionage as well as other threats and activities directed by foreign intelligence services against United States government establishments or persons," a statement said.

It said Mr. Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz, along

with senior advisers, would meet within two weeks to determine measures that must be taken.

The statement was issued after Mr. Reagan met with members of the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. It was charged with looking into problems at the Moscow embassy after U.S. Marine guards there were accused of associating with Soviet agents and a new embassy structure was said to be riddled with bugging devices.

The board gave Mr. Reagan a classified study of its findings. Other studies have been produced by groups headed by former Defence Secretary Melvin Laird and James Schlesinger.

Bavdra move seen as first sign of break in Fiji crisis

SUVA (R) — Deposed Prime Minister Timoci Bavdra announced Wednesday for the first time that he would support efforts by Fiji's government to restore democracy following a military coup two months ago.

Government officials welcomed Mr. Bavdra's decision which they said was the first sign of a break in the island nation's political crisis precipitated by the May 14 coup which ousted Mr. Bavdra.

Mr. Bavdra in a statement called on the army to show res-

traint to help the island nation return to parliamentary government which would safeguard the rights of all citizens.

His statement came after Indian sugarcane workers agreed to lift their ban on the harvest of the crop, Fiji's main export earner.

The state-owned Fiji Sugar Corporation said it would begin crushing of the sugarcane Wednesday. Governor-General Ratu Sir Penia Ganiula had appealed to all parties to help start sugar harvest to help restore the country's shattered economy.

U.S. aide criticises remarks of Papandreou

WASHINGTON (AP) — A State Department official has said that recent statements by Greek Premier Andreas Papandreou were "not helpful" to relations with the United States.

Assistant Secretary of State Edward Derwinski, testifying before a Senate panel, said U.S. relations with Greece had recently been "complicated by a tendency toward explosive political debate. This is sometimes fostered by statements from the prime minister. These are not helpful."

Relations between Washington and Athens have been strained in recent weeks since U.S. Ambas-

sador to Greece Robert Keeley told Greek officials the United States had proof that Greece had tried to make a deal with Palestinian commandos.

Mr. Papandreou threatened last month to cancel scheduled talks on renewing U.S. military basing rights in Greece unless the United States withdrew the charge.

Preliminary talks between Mr. Keeley and Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias were scheduled to begin about two weeks ago. A Greek embassy official in Washington said they were being delayed for now.

Mr. Derwinski said the United States believed the comments made by Mr. Keeley to his counterpart in Athens had been leaked by Greek officials, but he did not say why.

He said the U.S. embassy "held tight" the information it had that Greece held talks with the Palestinian Organisation of Abu Nidal regarding the release of prisoners suspected of attacks.

Mr. Keeley reportedly gave the Greek Foreign Ministry intelligence reports that showed Greece sought a deal with Abu Nidal to prevent attacks on its territory.

Spycatcher could go on sale in U.K. soon, lawyer says

LONDON (R) — Copies of a retired secret agent's memoirs arriving in Britain, where the book is banned, could lead to its publication here shortly, a publisher's lawyer has said.

Journalists arriving from the United States, where former MI5 counter-intelligence agent Peter Wright's book Spycatcher went on sale this week, brought a number of copies through customs at London's Heathrow Airport without being challenged.

"I would anticipate that the book would be published at the beginning of August," said David Hooper, a lawyer for Heinemann, holders of the British rights to the memoirs.

The British government, in a bid to discourage former secret agents from disclosing classified information, has taken court action to prevent the book being published here and in Australia.

Speaking on television, Mr. Hooper said publication could proceed if there was an agreement not to start fresh litigation.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher ruled out as ineffective any attempt to stop air travellers bringing Spycatcher from the United States but said in parliament Tuesday she was considering legal action to confiscate Wright's

profits from the book.

Doubleday Book Store in Manhattan New York said it had sold nearly all its 200 copies since the book went on sale Tuesday.

"The (British) government is seeking to uphold the principle that if you are a secret agent, you owe a lifelong oath of confidentiality," a senior aide to Mrs. Thatcher told reporters Tuesday.

Some of the book's more pungent revelations have appeared in British and American newspapers and the U.S. publisher said such excerpts spurred publication.

But Peter Mayer, executive director of Viking Penguin Publishers of New York, said the book, whose initial run is 50,000 copies was not published with controversy in mind.

"The American readership was being spoiled by newspaper accounts of excerpts from the book," Mayer told Reuters in a telephone interview. "The book's editor felt, if I don't publish it now, whatever is of interest to the readership will be diminished."

He said any attempt to introduce the book into Britain was the concern of the British customs service and not the publisher's as Viking Penguin had no plans to publish Spycatcher in Britain.

Opposition leader issues ultimatum to Ershad

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh's major opposition party, bolstered by three days of successful general strikes, gave an ultimatum Wednesday to President Hossein Mohammad Ershad to resign by Sunday.

Parliamentary opposition leader Sheikh Hasina warned that her Awami League would call another 72-hour stoppage if Gen. Ershad, who has been in power for five years, ignored her demand.

"He must accept our demands if he doesn't want his so-called government to be crippled," Sheikh Hasina said in a statement.

Khabar newspaper said all Awami League MPs Tuesday gave Hasina a statement proposing that they resign from parliament to protest at government policies. Hasina seemed undecided on the move, the paper said.

Gen. Ershad, apparently unconcerned, left Wednesday for a four-day state visit to North Yemen.

But he admitted earlier that the opposition-led strikes, which brought Bangladesh to a virtual standstill this week, had been widely observed and blamed the weakness of his ruling Jatiya Party.

"They (the opposition) cashed

in on our weakness. We should strengthen our party to give it a solid foundation so none can jeopardise democracy," he told a party policy-making meeting Tuesday night.

A Jatiya spokesman said the party discussed the implications of the biggest strikes since Gen. Ershad restored parliament last November.

Most opposition parties do not accept Jatiya's victory in the polls, saying it rigged them with police and military help.

The strikes this week began with workers demanding higher wages. The opposition, backed by students, joined in to protest against a bill passed in parliament on Sunday allowing the military to share power in rural district councils.

Gen. Ershad criticised the opposition for repeatedly calling strikes that he said brought only economic hardship.

"We must put an end to this anarchy and violence. The way to do it is to face (the opposition) politically," he said.

Prime Minister Muzibur Rahman told the Jatiya meeting that army participation in civil administration was needed to boost development in rural areas. He denied opposition accusations that it will interfere with democracy.

Social Democratic official found dead in W. Germany

UNNA, West Germany (AP) — A local Social Democratic politician was found dead, his body tied to a tree and an inverted Swastika pinned to the corpse, authorities said.

Police also found a letter next to the body, saying, "you red swine, you are going to the gas chamber."

The letter and the inverted Swastika prompted speculation that Heinz-Dieter Becker was the victim of Neo-Nazi or right-wing extremists. But local Social Democratic officials doubted the theory, and police said Becker's death remained a mystery.

Walter Hoelscher, chairman of the Social Democrats in Unna, said Becker was "surely not involved politically in anything that would give right-wing extremists a reason to kill him."

Becker was recently elected to the municipal council on a Social Democratic ticket. The left-of-centre Social Democrats are the main opposition party on the federal level.

Chief Prosecutor Klaus Schacht said an autopsy showed Becker died of suffocation. A

plastic bag covered Becker's head when his body was found early Tuesday on a road outside Unna, a central West German town near Dortmund. Mr. Schacht said.

Becker, a 43-year-old electronics instructor, disappeared after calling his wife Monday evening and saying he was coming home.

Last week, Becker told police he had been kidnapped by unknown persons, held for a day and released. He said his alleged abductors pulled him from his car, dragged him, covered his head with a plastic bag and put a threatening letter in his briefcase before releasing him.

Police at the time doubted Becker's story because there were no witnesses. But on Tuesday, they offered a reward of 3,000 marks (\$1,600) for any information on the alleged kidnapping.

Mr. Schacht said it was "theoretically possible" that Becker had committed suicide and that police would try to reconstruct the incident in an attempt to solve the case.

COLUMNS 7&8

AIDS test for foreigners in India

NEW DELHI (R) — India is completing plans to impose random AIDS tests for foreigners staying for more than a year, a senior Health Ministry official said Wednesday. The official, who declined to be named, confirmed press reports that the government would announce in the coming weeks its plans to implement the new law which would apply to all foreigners except diplomats. But the official told Reuters only foreign students are likely to be fully tested for AIDS, which says the body's ability to fight disease. Other foreigners were likely to be tested randomly because of a lack of medical facilities. At least 86 people in India have been diagnosed as suffering from AIDS and at least five have died. Government officials blame foreigners for the spread of AIDS, which they say poses a potential threat to its 800 million people.

Grasshoppers to Hong Kong bring riches

HONG KONG (R) — Two peasant brothers in south China became rich by exporting eight million grasshoppers to Hong Kong last year, a Canton newspaper said. Hung Yukuan and Zhong Yukuan earned 240,000 yuan (\$65,000) by hiring children to catch grasshoppers which were sold to a bird feed company in the British colony. Nanfeng Ribao said. Pay for a typical Chinese factory worker is \$25 a month.

Beatle memorabilia to be shown in Dallas

LIVERPOOL (AP) — An exhibit of Beatle memorabilia failing to attract large numbers of tourists in Liverpool has found a temporary home in a Texas shopping mall, the exhibit's general manager said. The Beatle City Exhibit in Liverpool, where the band started in the 1960s, will open at the West End marketplace in Dallas in early August, said the general manager, Mike Byrne. The exhibit is to return to a new home in Liverpool next spring, Byrne said. The exhibit, the world's only permanent exhibit of Beatle memorabilia, includes about 1,000 items. They range from photographs and letters to a Steinway piano — complete with keyboard cigarette burns — on which the late John Lennon composed his songs and a mini car Ringo Starr had converted to carry his full drum kit, Byrne said. The three-year-old, financially troubled exhibit was sold to a London businessman, John Symons, in April for £200,000 (\$322,000), Byrne said. The previous owner was Radio City, an independent commercial radio station in Liverpool, Byrne said. The Dallas Shopping Mall offered a 1,000-square-metre exhibition site and a \$100,000 promotion budget. "They're (also) paying a fee but the actual details we'll keep to ourselves," Byrne said.

Gang help themselves to millions

LONDON (R) — Two armed raiders posing as businessmen made off with a fortune in cash and jewellery from a London safe-deposit centre once billed as the world's most secure, police said. The exact value of the robbery was not known as the contents of the deposit boxes were private but one estimate set the haul at about £10 million (\$16 million). Police said they were looking for two men who fooled guards at the Knightsbridge Safe Deposit Centre near the luxury department store Harrods by posing as potential customers when they arrived in the afternoon carrying briefcases. Once in the downstairs vault, the pair produced a sawed-off shotgun and a pistol, handcuffed two security guards and held a gun to the managing director's head while they emptied 113 safe-deposit boxes. "We are dealing with two very cool customers. It's been very well planned," a police spokesman said. Police were seeking to contact depositors in order to assess the value of the haul. Anxious customers who flocked to the centre included a member of the Asprey Jewellery Family, who said she had lost all her jewels in the raid.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etkeson

A LITTLE TRAVELING MUSIC

By Dorothy B. Maritz

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